## COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

APPEALS COURT

2014-P-1127

COMMONWEALTH, Appellee

v.

HARVEY J. BIGELOW, Appellant

ON APPEAL FROM A JUDGMENT OF THE TAUNTON DISTRICT COURT

APPELLANT/HARVEY J. BIGELOW'S BRIEF AND RECORD APPENDIX

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#### ISSUES PRESENTED

- 1. It was alleged that the defendant wrote and mailed five anonymous letters to a Rehoboth selectman and his wife and based on those documents he was charged with two counts of criminal harassment in violation of G.L. c. 265, \$43A wherein the selectman and his wife each were named as a complainant. Where the selectman is a public figure and none of the letters contain "fighting words" or "true threats" but rather merely reflect expressions of dissatisfaction with the selectman's performance, was the defendant's purported speech underlying his conviction constitutionally protected speech?
- 2. When there was no evidence that the defendant engaged in three separate incidents of conduct directed at each complainant, as required by G.L. c. 265, § 43A, was the defendant's motion for a required finding of not guilty properly denied?
- 3. To the extent that one of the complainants (Mrs. Costello) was "seriously alarmed", if she was, by the defendant's alleged conduct, was it of such a nature that would cause a reasonable person to

- suffer "substantial emotion distress" as required by the statute?
- 4. Where the prosecutor misstated the law, namely two elements of the offense, and misstated material facts, was the defendant prejudiced thereby when all of the errors went to the heart of the case, the jury instructions did not mitigate the damage, and the errors cumulatively contributed greatly to a guilty conviction?
- 5. In his opening statement, the prosecutor told the jury that it would hear testimony from the Commonwealth's handwriting analysis expert that it was "highly probable" that the defendant was the author of all five letters mailed to the complainants and that the defendant made admissions to the police. Did trial counsel render ineffective assistance of counsel when he failed to move for a mistrial when the prosecutor's promised and damning evidence did not materialize at trial?

# STATEMENT OF THE CASE

On November 11, 2011, a complaint issued out of Taunton District Court charging Harvey J. Bigelow (the "defendant") with two counts of criminal harassment in

violation of G.L. c. 265, § 43A.¹ [R.9]. Michael Costello ("Mr. Costello") was the listed complainant on count one and his wife, Susan Costello ("Mrs. Costello"), was listed as the complainant on count two. [R.9].

On May 10, 2012, the defendant's motion to dismiss both counts was heard, Phillips, J., presiding, and on June 8, 2012, that motion was denied. [Tr.1/7-24,30].

The matter proceeded to trial on August 13, 2013, Phillips, J., presiding. [Tr.1/33]. The defendant filed a motion entitled a "Motion to Exclude Robert Foley as Expert Witness for Commonwealth", but after a voir dire of Mr. Foley, the judge found him to be qualified as an expert in handwriting analysis and denied the defendant's motion. [R.16]. The Commonwealth's list of potential witnesses included Mr. Foley but he did not testify at trial even though he was present at trial. [Tr.1/56;R.18]. After the Commonwealth rested, the defendant's motion for

<sup>1</sup> Record references will be cited as follows: the trial transcript will be cited at [Tr.volume number/page number] and the defendant's record appendix will be cited as [R.page number].

required finding of not guilty was heard and denied. [Tr.2/17-20].

On August 14, 2013, the jury found the defendant quilty as charged. [Tr.2/56; R.5]. The defendant's request for a stay of execution was denied and the defendant was held at the house of correction. [Tr. 2/70]. The judge ordered the defendant to write a letter of apology to the complainants and to the editor of three local newspaper. [Tr.2/66,70,71,82] The matter was stayed until August 21, 2013 for sentencing and was further stayed to August 28, 2013 because the judge was not available on August 21. ITr. 2/71,84]. On August 28, 2013, the defendant produced a letter, but the complainants and the judge found the letter to be not "sincere". [Tr.2/73]. The judge ordered the defendant to be held until he wrote an "acceptable" letter. [Tr.2/78]. The defendant wrote another letter and he was released. [Tr.2/78]. The defendant was sentenced to one year straight probation with the conditions that the defendant write a letter of apology addressed to the editor of three local newspapers and to the complainants to be published in

three local newspapers. [Tr.66; R.2]. The defendant timely filed a notice of appeal. [R.7].

## STATEMENT OF THE FACTS:

Mr. and Mrs. Costello are residents of Rehoboth,

Massachusetts. [Tr.1/133]. In April 2011, Mr.

Costello was elected Selectman of Rehoboth. [Tr.

1/97]. Mrs. Costello described her relationship with

Mr. Costello as "good" but "stressful". [Tr.1/98].

Between May 9, 2011 and July 30, 2011, the

Costellos received five anonymous letters all of which

were were mailed to the Costello's home located at 11

Judith Ann Circle in Rehoboth, Massachusetts ("home

address"). [Tr.1/96-97]. All of the letters were

typewritten, and as the Commonwealth described, all

were about Mr. Costello. [R.19-35]. Specifically,

the Commonwealth described the letters as "the

defendant's displeasure" with Mr. Costello's

performance as a selectman and that the defendant's

words "strayed into profanity and derogatory comments

and slanderous statements." [Tr. 1/5,6].

Mr. Costello testified that he received the first letter in the mail and that either he alone opened it or together he and his wife opened it. [Tr.

1/138,140,146]. The envelope was addressed to "Mr. and Mrs. Michael Costello." [Tr.1/138]. He testified that after he read it, he "felt it was starting all over again because before the election I had this type of harassment and I felt that after the election [] they didn't stop and this was another session of their harassment."<sup>2</sup> [Tr.1/138]. Mr. Costesllo brought the letter to the police station and filed a complaint. [Tr.1/139]. Thereafter, an investigation began with Detective Brian Ramos of the Rehoboth Police

The Detective instructed the Costellos to deliver all future letters to the police department unopened, which is what Mr. Costello did. [Tr. 1/139,150,153,154]. Mr. Costello testified that he subsequently received four more letters and that he personally delivered all of them to the police department unopened. [Tr.1/139,140,150,153,154]. He further testified that Mrs. Costello did not open any of the letters, except for the first letter. [Tr. 1/146,150,154].

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> There was no evidence or suggestion made by the Commonwealth that the defendant was involved in this prior "harassment".

After all five letters were in the hands of the police department, Mr. Costello received copies of the letters from the police, at his request, which he read "a few days" later. [Tr.1/141,153-154]. He then showed the copies to Mrs. Costello. [Tr.1/154,155]. Mr. Costello testified that this was the first time that Mrs. Costello had seen or read the four subsequent letters. [Tr.1/154,158].

After reading the letters, Mr. Costello testified that he "felt like my character was fully run through the mud and [he] didn't feel it was fair", but he recognized that as a selectman, he was subject to criticism. [Tr.1/141,145]. He described the letters as "basically lies" and "against my character". [Tr. 1/148]. He also testified that he actually "felt bad for the author." [Tr.1/141].

Mrs. Costello testified, however, her testimony differed from Mr. Costello. She testified that she personally received and opened all letters, except for the last one. [Tr.1/121]. Regarding the first letter (Commonwealth's Exhibit 1), she testified that sometime in May 2011, she found a letter in her mailbox addressed to "Mr. and Mrs. Michael Costello".

[Tr.1/98,99;R.19]. She opened the letter, read it and "felt hysterical." [Tr.1/99]. She called her husband and he said to her, "I'll take care of it." [Tr. 1/99]. She could not remember what she did after she telephoned her husband. [Tr.1/99]. Mrs. Costello was not mentioned in this letter.

Mrs. Costello testified that she received a second letter (Commonwealth's Exhibit 2). [Tr. 1/102,103;R.21]. The envelope, which was addressed to her at her home address, was post-marked May 26, 2011 and it did not have a return address. [Tr.1/102;R. 25]. She described the content of the letter as "hateful and mean and hurtful and disgusting". [Tr. 1/102]. She testified that she felt "mad, angry" and she "could not stop crying, couldn't sleep, [and she was] afraid to live in [her] own home, [and] afraid to be alone." [Tr.1/102,103]. Mrs. Costello was not mentioned in this letter.

She received a third letter, which was addressed to "Mrs. Michael Costello" (Commonwealth's Exhibit 3). [Tr.1/104,105;R.27]. She testified that she received this letter "at my home." [Tr.1/104]. When she

opened it, she was "a wreck" [Tr.1/105]. She claimed she could not sleep or eat. [Tr.1/105].

Mrs. Costello claimed that she received a fourth letter, which she opened. (Commonwealth's Exhibit 4). [Tr.1/106,107]. She described this letter as a "hateful letter, [and] another scary letter." [Tr. 1/106]. The letter asked her to "Please convince that moran to resign". [R.29]. She claimed that she "could not eat dinner" and that it was "affecting [her] whole life and she could not sleep at night." [Tr.1/108]. The Commonwealth asked her if her ability to perform her duties at Weight Watchers was affected to which she replied "a little". [Tr.1/108]. She testified that after she read the letter, she brought the letter to the police station. [Tr.1/107].

Mrs. Costello testified that she received a fifth and final letter, which was addressed to "SUSAN THE MAID COSTELLO" (Commonwealth's Exhibit 5). [Tr. 1/108,109]. That letter was postmarked July 23, 2011. [Tr.109]. She brought this letter to the police station unopened. [Tr.1/110-111]. At this point, she was "ready to move" and she was afraid and "scared out

of my mind living in this town and my house." [Tr. 1/111].

Even though she could not eat, sleep and felt like a "wreck", she never told the police how she felt. [Tr.1/116]. She testified that she was not interviewed by the police and she "didn't need to speak to the police" about this matter. [Tr.1/116].

Neither complainant identified the defendant as the author of the letters. [Tr.1/111,126,130,135].

All five letters were introduced into evidence without objection. [Tr.1/112].

Mr. Dennis Bigelow ("Dennis"), the defendant's son, testified on behalf of the Commonwealth. [Tr. 1/159-174]. Dennis is a Rehoboth resident, and he lives and works with his girlfriend, Heather Roselli ("Heather"), at an auto body repair shop located in East Providence, Rhode Island. [Tr.1/160]. The defendant and Heather do not get along, and Dennis described his relationships with his father as "very strained." [Tr.1/162,171]. Dennis and Heather are defendants in a civil suit in superior court wherein the defendant, as plaintiff, is suing Dennis and

Heather over the auto body repair shop business, which according to Heather only, Dennis owns. [Tr.1/167].

The defendant worked with Dennis and Heather at the auto body shop, but due to the strained relationship between the defendant and Heather, the defendant changed his work schedule to nights so that he would not have to be near Heather. [Tr.1/171]. At some point, the defendant was ousted from the shop after Dennis and Heather changed the locks on the door and sought a no trespassing order against him. 1/185.

On July 22, 2011 Dennis arrived at work and located what he described was a letter on the "copy table." [Tr.1/163]. Dennis identified Exhibit 6 as the letter he found. [Tr.1/163]. After he found the letter, he called the East Providence Police and the Rehoboth police. [Tr.1/164,165]. He then viewed a surveillance video tape, which was set up in the shop, and he saw the defendant "making copies". [Tr.1/165]. At trial, when asked where that surveillance tape was, he said "the court" has it. [Tr.1/171]. Detective Ramos testified that he viewed that surveillance tape, but it did not show the defendant making copies, as Dennis claimed. [Tr.2/16]. The date stamp on the

surveillance video was incorrect. [Tr.1/172]. The surveillance video was not introduced at trial. [Tr. 1/172].

Heather testified on behalf of the Commonwealth.

[Tr.1/177-185]. The Commonwealth presented her with what she referred to as a "ledger" and she testified that she recognized the defendant's handwriting in that ledger, which she said the defendant used to write notes while at work at the auto body repair shop. [Tr.1/179,180]. The Commonwealth introduced the ledger into evidence without objection, and it was marked as Exhibit 7. [Tr.1/180-181;R.36]. Heather testified that when she was at a deposition in connection with the civil action involving the defendant, she stated that she, Dennis and an employee of the auto body shop found the letter (Exhibit 6) at the copy machine. [Tr.1/184].

Detective Brian Ramos, a Sergeant with the town of Rehoboth Police Department, testified on behalf of the Commonwealth. [Tr.2/6-16]. As the lead detective, he met with Mrs. Costello "several times" and interviewed her. [Tr.2/8-10]. During the course of the investigation, Detective Ramos instructed the

Costellos to deliver to the police department any letters they receive unopened. [Tr.2/10-11].

The Detective spoke with the defendant, who voluntarily came to the police department for an interview. [Tr.2/7]. During the interview, the defendant expressed concern that Mr. Costello was a convicted felon and was serving as a selectman.

2/7,15. The Detective testified that he could not recall if the defendant referred to himself as a "concerned citizen" or whether the Detective described the defendant as a "concerned citizen." [Tr.2/13,14].

Detective Ramos testified that the defendant denied writing any letters to the Costellos. [Tr. 2/8].

## SUMMARY OF THE ARGUMENTS

1. The complainants, Mr. and Mrs. Costello, received five typewritten anonymous letters all of which expressed the author's dissatisfaction with Mr. Costello's performance as a Selectman of the town of Rehoboth. Since Mr. Costello was selectman and thus a public figure and none of the letters contained "fighting words" or "true threats", the defendant's purported speech was constitutionally protected.

- 2. There was no evidence that the defendant engaged in three separate incidents of conduct directed at each complainant, as required by G.L. c. 265, § 43A.
- 3. There was no evidence that Mr. Costello was seriously alarmed a necessary element of the offense and to the extent that Mrs. Costello was seriously alarmed, if she was, a reasonable person would not have suffered substantial emotional distress.
- 4. In his closing argument the prosecutor misstated the law when he instructed the jurors to evaluate their own individual feelings and reaction to the letters, as opposed to whether the complainants subjectively were seriously alarmed, and if so, whether their substantial emotional distress was reasonable. The prosecutor also misstated several material facts which cumulatively contributed to a guilty verdict.
- 5. In his opening statement, the prosecutor promised the jury that a handwriting analysis expert would testify that it was "highly probable" that the defendant was the author of all five letters mailed to the complainants. The prosecutor also stated in his opening that Detective Ramos would testify that the

defendant made admissions to him. No expert testified at trial and the Detective never testified that the defendant made any admissions. Trial counsel rendered ineffective assistance of counsel when he failed to move for a mistrial on the grounds that the promised evidence did not materialize at trial.

# **ARGUMENTS:**

I. THE PURPORTED WORDS WRITTEN BY THE DEFENDANT
ABOUT A PUBLIC OFFICIAL WERE PROTECTED SPEECH AS
THEY DO NOT RISE TO THE LEVEL OF "FIGHTING WORDS"
OR "TRUE THREATS" BUT RATHER WERE EXPRESSIONS OF
DISSATISFACTION OF THE COMPLAINANT'S PERFORMANCE
AS A TOWN SELECTMAN.

Prior to trial, the defendant moved to dismiss both counts of criminal harassment on the grounds that the defendant's purported remarks were protected speech, inter alia. [R.10]. The denial of that motion was error.

In <u>Commonwealth v. Welch</u>, 444 Mass. 80 (2005), the Supreme Judicial Court considered the implication of free speech in the context of the criminal harassment statute, G.L. c. 265, \$43A. The court concluded that the statute, which prohibits certain harassing speech, did not impermissibly criminalize speech protected under the First and Fourteenth

Amendments to the United States Constitution and art.

16 of the Massachusetts Declaration of Rights because
the statute only punished "fighting words." In 2012,
in dictum the Supreme Judicial Court expanded the
reach of the statue to include "true threats" in

O'Brien v. Borowski, 461 Mass. 415, 425, n. 7 (2012).

"Fighting words" are words "which by their very utterance inflict injury or tend to incite an immediate breach of the peace" and words "plainly likely to cause a breach of the peace by the addressee." Chaplinsky v. New Hampshire, supra at 572, 573. Commonwealth v. Welch, 444 Mass. at 94.

"Tighting words" have also been described as "Those personally abusive epithets which, when addressed to the ordinary citizen, are, as a matter of common knowledge, inherently likely to provoke violent reaction." Cohen v. California, 403 U.S. 15, 20 (1971). Id.

"True threats' encompass those statements where the speaker means to communicate a serious expression of an intent to commit an act of unlawful violence to a particular individual or group of individuals . . ."

O'Brien v. Borowski, 461 Mass. at 423.

"The term 'true threat' has been adopted to help distinguish between words that literally threaten but have an expressive purpose such as political hyperbole, and [] words that are intended to place the target of the threat in fear, whether the threat is veiled or explicit." Commonwealth v. Chou, 433 Mass. 229, 236, 741 N.E.2d 17 (2001) (Chou)." Id. at 423-424.

The evidence against the defendant consisted of five anonymous documents all of which were critical of Mr. Costello in his capacity as a Rehoboth Selectman - a point the Commonwealth concedes. [Tr.1/34]. For example, in Exhibit 1 the author encourages Mr. Costello to step down as a selectman because no one takes him seriously. [R.19]. The writer claims Mr. Costello is a disgrace and that he is "not even close to being capable in any way to be a selectman". [R. 19]. The writer states that "the tide is turning against you in town and people are talking about you negatively." [R.19].

In Exhibit 2, the writer states that an "emergency meeting" has been called to discuss Mr. Costello's "criminal mess". [R.22]. The writer

encourages Mr. Costello to "resign immediately" or alternatively suggests that Mr. Costello be "put on administrative leave [] pending [the] investigation." [R.22]. The writer states that "we all sign a no confidence vote" in Mr. Costello and that Mr. Costello should be "put on leave" for a month until an investigation is conducted or a recall occurs. [R. 22].

In Exhibit 3, the writer opines that Mr. Costello is a "disgusting cheat", a "scum bag", a felon, and a "thief", and in Exhibit 4, the writer urges Mrs.

Costello to "convince that moran to resign and then kick his ass to the curb." [R.27,29].

Exhibit 5 is addressed to "Lorraine" - whoever she is - and the writer says she is "stupid" for supporting "such a bum". [R.33]. The writer suggests that Lorraine should post the newspaper article about the "26 neighbors that want [Mr. Costello] out" and that Mr. Costello should "pay back the money he stole from [the neighbors]." [R.33].

Thus, the record makes clear that none of the defendant's purported words are "fighting words" or "true threats". Specifically, none of them "by their

very utterance inflict injury or tend to incite an immediate breach of peace", nor are they "plainly likely to cause a breach of the peace by the addressee." . Commonwealth v. Welch, 444 Mass. at 94, quoting Chaplinsky v. New Hampshire, 315 U.S. 568, 572 (1942).

Further, none of the purported words were "likely to provoke violent reaction." Id. See also O'Brien v. Borowski, 461 Mass. at 425 (fighting words must be so insulting that they "provoke immediate violance.").

To constitute "fight words," the language must be "'directed to the person of the hearer' in the sense that they are a face to face personal insult.'

Commonwealth v. A Juvenile, supra at 591, quoting Cantwell v. Connecticut, supra." Id. at 99. But here, all five letters were mailed to the Costellos; and therefore, it cannot be said that there was a face-to-face confrontation as required.

And finally, "fighting words" must be addressed to the "ordinary citizen". Id. at 93. Mr. Costello, as a Selectman of the town of Rehoboth, was no ordinary citizen, but rather a public figure. See Stone v. Essex County Newspapers, Inc., 367 Mass. 849,

863 (1975) ("the designation of public official applies at least to government employees who have, or publicly appear to have, substantial responsibility for control of public affairs. Rosenblatt v. Baer, 383 U.S. at 85 (1966). New York Times Co. v. Sullivan, 376 U.S. at 283 (1964)").

As to "true threats", the defendant's alleged remarks fall drastically short of expressing an intent to "commit an act of unlawful violence" as required.

The alleged remarks were merely political hyperbole.

See O'Brien v. Borowski, 461 Mass. at 423-424 ("true threats" has been adopted to help distinguish between words that literally threaten but have an expressive purpose such as political hyperbole and words that are intended to place the target of the threat in fear, whether the threat is veiled or explicit)

Complaints made to a government officials "are not the type of statements that could be punished pursuant to the criminal harassment" because they directly implicate constitutionally protected speech.

Commonwealth v. Braica, 68 Mass. App. Ct. 244, 244

(2007). See also Duracraft Corp. v. Holmes Prod.

Corp., 427 Mass. 156, 162 (1998); Kobrin v.

<u>Gastfriend</u>, 443 Mass. 327, 331-332 (2005); <u>Cadle Co.</u> <u>v. Schlichtmann</u>, 448 Mass. 242, 248-249 (2007).

To illustrate, in <u>Commonwealth v. Braica</u>, 68

Mass. App. Ct. 244 (2007), the defendant's conviction

for criminal harassment was reversed and the court

concluded that the defendant's complaints to

government officials about the alleged victim's

activities, some of which led to citations and a cease

and desist order, did not and could not constitute

criminal harassment. <u>Id</u>.

The court held that complaints to government officials were not the type of statements that could be punished pursuant to the criminal harassment statute as explicated by Welch. Id. at 247. The court explained that the Legislature intended to provide "'very broad protection for petitioning activities,' and not criminal punishment. Duracraft Corp. v. Holmes Prod. Corp., 427 Mass. 156, 162-163 (1996)

(interpreting anti-SLAPP statute, G.L. c. 231, § 59H)." Id. at 248 n. 3.

Mixed in with criticism is the author's jabs at Mr. Costello's personality and how he is not suited for an elected position. The writer claims that Mr.

Costello is a felon, that he has a problem with drugs and alcohol and that he should resign. [R.19]. The writer opined Mr. Costello "look[s] like a thug with that prison haircut and grease." [R.19,22].

"'[V]ulgar, profane, offensive or abusive speech is not, without more, subject to criminal sanction...'

Commonwealth v. A Juvenile, supra at 589."

Commonwealth v. Welch, 444 Mass. at 99.

Listening to dissatisfied constituents is part of the job of an elected official. Indeed, Mr. Costello testified that occasionally a letter to the editor would appear in the local paper expressing objections to some of his votes and decisions he made on behalf of the town. [Tr.1/145].

In the end, the Commonwealth prosecuted the defendant for what the Costellos concluded was hurtful speech. The First Amendment requires that debate on public issues should be "uninhibited, robust, and wide open, and such debate may well include vehement, caustic, and sometimes unpleasantly sharp attacks on government and public officials." New York Times Co.

v. Sullivan, 376 U.S. 254, 256 (1964). Thus, the

defendant's purported words were protected speech and the court erred in denying his motion to dismiss.

II. THERE WAS NO EVIDENCE THAT THE DEFENDANT'S

ALLEGED CONDUCT TARGETED EACH COMPLAINANT ON

THREE SEPARATE OCCASIONS AS REQUIRED BY THE

STATUTE; AND THEREFORE, THE DEFENDANT'S MOTION

FOR REQUIRED FINDING OF NOT GUILTY WAS IMPROPERLY

DENIED.

A violation of G.L. c. 265, § 43A requires that the defendant (1) willfully and maliciously engage; (2) in a knowing pattern of conduct, speech or specific acts; (3) directed at a specific person; (4) which seriously alarms that person; and (5) would cause a reasonable person to suffer substantial emotional distress. Commonwealth v. Robinson, 444 Mass. 102, 108 (2005).

Here, the trial judge erred in denying the defendant's motion for a required finding of not guilty because there was no proof that the defendant targeted each complainant on three separate occasions as required by the statute (element two and three).

Commonwealth v. Welch, 444 Mass. at 89. Arguments relating to the fourth and fifth element will be addressed seriatim.

When a defendant challenges the sufficiency of the evidence to support a conviction, the court considers "whether, after viewing the evidence in the light most favorable to the prosecution, any rational trier of fact could have found the essential elements of the crime beyond a reasonable doubt" (emphasis in original). Commonwealth v. Latimore, 378 Mass. 671, 677 (1979), quoting Jackson v. Virginia, 443 U.S. 307, 318-319 (1979).

As to the second and third element, the Supreme Judicial Court has held that this ". . . requires the Commonwealth to establish, at the very least, that the defendant intended to target the victim with the harassing conduct on at least three occasions,"

Commonwealth v. Welch, 444 Mass. at 90. There is no dispute that the Commonwealth only introduced five alleged documents to prove two counts of criminal harassment. [Tr.1/6].

Exhibits 1 and 2 appear to be a type written note, which are neither dated nor signed. [R.19-26]. Both of them are about Mr. Costello exclusively and focus on Mr. Costello's poor performance as a selectman. [R.19-26]. There is no mention of Mrs.

Costello in these notes. [R.19-26]. The return address in Exhibit 1 is listed as "the Rehoboth Town Hall". [R.20]. There is no return address on Exhibit 2. [R.25].

Exhibit 3 and 4 are a typed written letter on a blank piece of paper addressed to "Mrs. Michael Costello" at her home address. [R.27,29]. Both letters are signed "Sincerely, A Concerned Citizen". [R.27,29]. There is no return address on either envelope. [R.28,32]. In Exhibit 3, the writer discussed how Mr. Costello "scammed people out of low income housing" and questions how Mrs. Costello can be married to a "felon" and a "thief. [R.27]. In Exhibit 4, the writer encourages Mrs. Costello to "convince that moran to resign and then kick his ass to the curb." [R.29]. The writer claims that Mr. Costello will "drag [her] down" and that "love is blind." [R.29].

Exhibit 5 is a typed written note, which begins with "Hey Lorraine put this on the blog - how stupid can you be". [R.33]. There was no evidence at trial who Lorraine is and it is impossible to tell from this record who she is. The writer criticizes Lorraine for

being "stupid" for supporting "such a bum". [R.33]. The writer asks Lorraine if she is "screwing him too". [R.33]. The writer suggests that Lorraine post the newspaper article relating to the "26 neighbors that want him out at once" and for Mr. Costello to "pay back the money he stole from them." [R.33]. The writer accuses Lorraine and "Bitchy Bonnie" of "shoot[ing] [their] mouths off". [R.33]. In the middle top portion of the note, there is a handwritten note that says, "HEY SUE Why don't you come to the meeting on Mon". [R.33]. Mrs. Costello is not otherwise mentioned in the note. [R.33].

In these circumstances, the Commonwealth's evidence falls drastically short of proving the second and third element of of the offense. By the Commonwealth's own admission, all of the letters have a common theme, which is that they are critical of Mr. Costello as a selectman. [Tr.2/36]. The Commonwealth further concedes that there are "only two letters specifically were directed at Mr. Costello". [Tr. 1/17]. One note appears to be for "Lorraine". The math does not add up. Thus, it cannot be said when viewing the evidence in the light most favorable to

the Commonwealth that there was sufficient evidence for the jury to find that there were three incidents of conduct and that each instance was directed at a particular complainant, as required.

THE STATUTE REQUIRES THAT THE DEFENDANT'S CONDUCT
MUST "SERIOUSLY ALARM" A PERSON. THERE IS
NO EVIDENCE THAT ONE COMPLAINANT (MR. COSTELLO)
WAS AFFECTED BY THE DEFENDANT'S ALLEGED CONDUCT
AND TO THE EXTENT THAT THE SECOND COMPLAINANT
(MRS. COSTELLO) WAS SERIOUSLY ALARMED, IF SHE
WAS, IT WAS NOT OF SUCH A NATURE THAT WOULD CAUSE
A REASONABLE PERSON TO "SUFFER SUBSTANTIAL
EMOTIONAL DISTRESS" AS REQUIRED BY THE STATUTE.

The defendant's motion for a required finding of not guilty was improperly denied as there was no evidence that Mr. Costello was seriously alarmed and to the extent that Mrs. Costello was seriously alarmed, if she was, a reasonable person would not have suffered substantial emotional distress.

"Alarm" is defined as a "serious negative emotional experience." <u>Commonwealth v. Kessler</u>, 442 Mass. 770, 774 (2004).

Mr. Costello testified that he read all five letters a "few days after" they were received, and when he was asked how he felt after reading those letters, he testified that he "felt like my character was really run through the mud and I didn't feel it

was fair". [Tr.1/141]. Mr. Costello recognized that as a selectman, he is a public figure and he "opens himself up to some criticism." [Tr.1/144].

One letter called him a "felon", but that was something that he heard before. [Tr.1/147]. Prior to the election, he had received a flier, which were similar in nature. [Tr.1/144]. Also, Mr. Costello was aware that occasionally a letter to the editor of the local paper would appear in the newspaper voicing objection to some of his votes. [Tr.1/145]. Thus, Mr. Costello was not "seriously alarmed". For him, it was "politics as usual."

Mrs. Costello claims she felt "threaten" because one of the letters contained an article in the local newspaper. [Tr.1/124]. But that article was written by "Herbert M. Adams" - whoever he is - and in that article Mr. Adams expresses his "concern" for Rehoboth's well being with Mr. Costello serving as a selectman of Rehoboth.<sup>3</sup> [R.30,31]. Mrs. Costello testified that she "most likely" had read that article written by Mr. Adams when it appear in the newspaper,

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> By agreement with the Commonwealth, this article was reproduced and enlarged so that it could be read as the original copy was of poor quality. [R.30,31]

which occurred prior to receiving the letters. [Tr. 1/124-125].

She also testified that she attended some town meetings, and she had read and learned about articles in the local papers criticizing her husband in his performance as a selectman and some of the "positions" he took. [Tr.1/113,114,129].

The Rehoboth newspaper comes out once a month and as of the date of trial, she continues to read it.

[Tr.1/129]. Mrs. Costello conceded that part of her husband's job as a public figure and a selectman subjects him to some criticism. [Tr.1/120].

In these circumstances, it is difficult to see how Mrs. Costello could be seriously alarmed when she repeatedly had read and learned that her husband was not popular as a selectman.

But, if Mrs. Costello was seriously alarmed, a reasonable person in her position would not have suffered substantial emotional distress. If a complainant claims to have suffered - as Mrs. Costello claims - the inquiry then is whether that subjective claim was reasonable in relation to the defendant's alleged act. Commonwealth v. Braica, 68 Mass. App.

Ct. 244, 246. (2007). The term "substantial emotional distress" is defined a considerable in amount, or of real worth and importance. <u>Id</u>. Further,

"[s]ubstantial emotional distress" requires a showing of an invasion of the victim's mental tranquility that is "considerable in amount, value, or worth," something "markedly greater than that commonly experienced as part of ordinary living," and something that would "cause a reasonable person to suffer substantial emotional distress." <u>Commonwealth v.</u>

Robinson, 444 Mass. 102, 106 (2005).

The extent of Mrs. Costello's substantial emotion distress was loss of appetite, an inability to sleep, and she was afraid to live in her home and in the town. [Tr.1/111,124,125]. There is nothing to say that the defendant's alleged conduct interfered with Mrs. Costello's work or normal activities. Substantial emotional distress that is "merely trifling or passing is not enough to satisfy this element, but must be markedly greater than that commonly experienced as part of ordinary living. Id. at 106. Even if Mrs. Costello emotional distress was as she claimed, she never told the police.

It is just as likely that Mrs. Costello's distress, if any, was an unfortunate by-product of learning that her husband was a felon or that his hairdo is not particularly popular. [Tr.1/117-118]. Or, as argued below, it was actually Mr. Costello who put Mrs. Costello in a "tail spin" because after all, he was the one who gave her the letters. [Tr.1/27]. See Id. at 103 (the defendant's actions must have caused the victim to suffer substantial emotional distress).

In these circumstances, there was insufficient evidence to warrant a finding that the defendant's actions caused the complainants to be seriously alarmed and that they suffered substantial emotional distress.

IV. IN HIS CLOSING ARGUMENT, THE PROSECUTOR MISSTATED
THE LAW, NAMELY TWO ELEMENTS OF THE OFFENSE,
AND MISSTATED MATERIAL FACTS. THE DEFENDANT WAS
PREJUDICED THEREBY WHEN ALL OF THE ERRORS WENT TO
THE HEART OF THE CASE, THE JURY INSTRUCTIONS DID
NOT MITIGATE THE DAMAGE, AND THE ERRORS
CUMULATIVELY CONTRIBUTED GREATLY TO A GUILTY
CONVICTION

In his closing argument, the prosecutor misinformed the jury regarding two elements of the offense. The prosecutor asked the jurors to read the

letters and to individually "evaluate your feelings" and "reaction" to the contents of the letters. [Tr. 2/35,41]. The prosecutor told the jurors that when making a determination of whether the letters "could've reasonably had an impact on the recipient's emotional feelings" the jurors should use their own individual "commonsense." [Tr.2/35].

As discussed supra in Argument III, when determining whether a complainant has been "seriously alarmed" by a defendant's conduct, the inquiry is whether a complainant was subjectively seriously alarmed and if so whether her substantial emotional distress was reasonable in relation to the defendant's alleged act. Thus, whether a juror would have been seriously alarmed and suffered substantial emotional distress is not the appropriate inquiry.

In his closing argument, the prosecutor stated that during the defendant's interrogation with Detective Ramos, the defendant said that he was a "concerned citizen", the significance of which is that two of the letters were signed, "A Concerned Citizen". [r.27,29]. But Detective Ramos testified that he could not remember whether he (Detective Ramos)

referred to the defendant as a concerned citizen or whether the defendant referred to himself as a concerned citizen. Further, the Commonwealth argued that the signatory, "[A] Concerned Citizen", shows up on "nearly everyone of those letters as the supposed author of the documents that were sent to Mr. and Mrs. Costello." [Tr.2/39]. This is incorrect because only Exhibits 3 and 4 are signed "A Concerned Citizen".

[R.27,29].

The prosecutor also told the jury that

Exhibit 6 was "identical" to Exhibit 5 and as the

Commonwealth saw it, since Exhibit 6 was found in the

defendant's hands (at least according to Dennis'

testimony only), then the defendant must have been the

author of all of the letters. But, Exhibit 6 is not

identical to Exhibit 5 and Dennis, the only witness to

testify to Exhibit 6, was never shown Exhibit 5 and

never testified that they were identical.

In assessing a prosecutorial error in closing argument, the court will consider the following factors: "[1] Did the defendant seasonably object to the argument? [2] Was the prosecutor's error limited to 'collateral issues' or did it go to the heart of

the case? [3] What did judge tell the jury, generally or specifically, that may have mitigated the mistake, and [4] generally did the error possibly make a difference in the jury's conclusions?" Commonwealth v. Kozec, 399 Mass. 514, 518 (1987) (internal citations omitted).

The defendant did not object to any of the misstatements, and all of the misstatements went directly to the heart of the case. Commonwealth v.

Coren, 437 Mass. 732, 731 (2002); Commonwealth v.

Pavao, 34 Mass. App. Ct. 577, 582 (1993). The jury instructions did not cure the errors. The errors made a difference as they directly distorted material facts and confused the jurors by asking each juror to find the defendant guilty based on each jurors personal emotional reaction, and as a result, the defendant was prejudiced thereby.

Thus, "the cumulative effect" of the errors in the context of the entire trial, including the closing argument, the judge's instructions, and the evidence presented at trial requires reversal. Commonwealth v. Miles, 46 Mass. App. Ct. 216, 219-220 (1999). See also Commonwealth v. Kozec, 399 Mass.514, 523 (1987).

In closing argument, a prosecutor may not
"misstate the evidence or refer to facts not in
evidence." Commonwealth v. Lewis, 465 Mass. 119, 129

(2013), quoting Commonwealth v. Kozec, 399 Mass. 514,

516 (1987). "[M]isstatements of the evidence have been
treated as serious errors where the misstatements may
have prejudiced the defendant." Commonwealth v.

Santiago, 425 Mass. 491, 499-500 (1997). See also
Commonwealth v. Misguina, 82 Mass. App. Ct. 204, 206

(2012). Here, the defendant was prejudiced by the
cumulative effect of the prosecutor's errors.

V. DURING HIS OPENING STATEMENT THE PROSECUTOR
PROMISED THAT A HANDWRITING ANALYSIS EXPERT WOULD
TESTIFY THAT IT WAS "HIGHLY PROBABLE" THAT THE
DEFENDANT WAS THE AUTHOR OF ALL LETTERS MAILED TO
THE COMPLAINANTS AND THAT THE JURY WOULD HEAR
EVIDENCE FROM THE LEAD DETECTIVE THAT THE
DEFENDANT MADE ADMISSIONS. TRIAL COUSEL WAS
INEFFECTIVE FOR FAILING TO MOVE FOR A MISTRIAL
WHEN THE PROMISED AND DAMNING EVIDENCE DID NOT
MATERIALIZE AT TRIAL.

In his opening statement, the prosecutor stated, "a handwriting expert is going to testify and tell you that the comparison between the handwriting on those letters and other documents which the defendant authored or wrote and that it is highly probable that it is the same handwriting." [Tr.1/91]. The

prosecutor also told the jury in his opening statement that the jury would "hear testimony from Sergeant Brian Ramos who interrogated the Defendant, questioned him and the Defendant made admissions and he will testify to what those admissions were." [Tr.1/91]. At trial, no expert testified and Detective Ramos never testified that the defendant made any admissions. [Tr.1/177;2/4]. In these circumstances, trial counsel should have moved for a mistrial and his failure to do such rendered his assistance of counsel ineffective.

In <u>Commonwealth v. Bearse</u>, 358 Mass. 481 (1970), in his opening remarks, the prosecutor claimed he would prove that the defendant had said that he was going to kill his son, but the prosecutor then failed to prove the statement. The statement should not have been made because he never made that statement. <u>Id</u>. at 486-487.

Regarding the handwriting analysis expert, Mr. Foley, he appeared on the Commonwealth's list of potential witnesses and he as present at trial. [Tr. 1/56;R.18]. The defendant moved to exclude his testimony on the grounds that he was not an expert,

but after a voir dire, the judge found Mr. Robert Foley qualified as a handwriting analysis expert. [Tr. 1/56-81]. Yet, the Commonwealth did not call him as a witness.

As to the prosecutor's statement regarding admissions the defendant made, during the prosecutor's direction examination of Detective Ramos, the following exchange took place:

MR. VIVEIROS: "And I assume [the defendant] also denied that he had written any of those letters that you were investigating?"

DETECTIVE: Yes, he did deny it.

MR. VIVEIROS: Thank you, Detective, I have no more questions.

The prosecutors made no attempt to impeach the Detective. Based on the form of the question, it is clear that the prosecutor knew that the defendant never made any admissions. Both of these statement, having been made, although never proven, irretrievably and fatally prejudicial the defendant as there was nothing in the record to support a basis for the prosecutor's statements. Just as in Bearse, the

court held that the statement should never have been included in the opening unless there was no doubt of its admissibility. Id. at 487. The presumption of good faith cannot be made in this case. See also Commonwealth v. Hartford, 346 Mass. 482, 486 (1963). The expert was available as a witness and the prosecutor knew that the defendant never made any admissions.

Thus, the conviction was the product of the prosecutor's improper and prejudicial statements. In these circumstances, trial counsel should have moved for a mistrial and his failure to do such rendered his assistance of counsel ineffective. During his closing, trial counsel stated that "the Commonwealth promised you this, you're going to hear from some fellow who's going to tell you what I think about who wrote these. Where are we left with on that." [Tr.2/27]. But, he failed to follow up on this idea. His inattentiveness prejudiced the defendant.

#### CONCLUSION:

For the foregoing reasons the defendant

respectfully requests that the Judgment be reversed:

Respectfully submitted
Harvey J. Bigelow/Appellant
By his attorney,

Diana Cowhey McDermott

Attorney at Law

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Dated: 2 18 1

ADDENDUM

#### G.L. c. 265, sec. 43A

- (a) Whoever willfully and maliciously engages in a knowing pattern of conduct or series of acts over a period of time directed at a specific person, which seriously alarms that person and would cause a reasonable person to suffer substantial emotional distress, shall be guilty of the crime of criminal harassment and shall be punished by imprisonment in a house of correction for not more than 21/2 years or by a fine of not more than \$1,000, or by both such fine and imprisonment. The conduct or acts described in this paragraph shall include, but not be limited to, conduct or acts conducted by mail or by use of a telephonic or telecommunication device or electronic communication device including, but not limited to, any device that transfers signs, signals, writing, images, sounds, data or intelligence of any nature transmitted in whole or in part by a wire, radio, electromagnetic, photo-electronic or photo-optical system, including, but not limited to, electronic mail, internet communications, instant messages or facsimile communications.
- (b) Whoever, after having been convicted of the crime of criminal harassment, commits a second or subsequent such crime, or whoever commits the crime of criminal harassment having previously been convicted of a violation of section 43, shall be punished by imprisonment in a house of correction for not more than two and one-half years or by imprisonment in the state prison for not more than ten years.

#### 1st Amendment, U.S. Constitution

Amendment I

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances.

#### 14th Amendment, U.S. Constitution

All persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the state wherein they reside. No state shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any state deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws.

#### APPEALS COURT

2014-P-1127

# COMMONWEALTH, Appellee

v.

#### HARVEY J. BIGELOW, Appellant

#### ON APPEAL FROM A JUDGMENT OF THE TAUNTON DISTRICT COURT

# APPELLANT/HARVEY J. BIGELOW RECORD APPENDIX

Respectfully submitted, Harvey J. Bigelow/Appellant By his attorney,

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December 2014

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CRIMINAL DOC	KET	DEFENDANT NAME		DOCKET NUMBER					
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DFTA = Defendant failed to appear & was defaulted WAR = Warrant Issued WARD = Default warrant issued WR = Warrant or default warrant recalled PR = probation revocation hearing

BRISTOL, ss.

Taunton District Court
Docket No.: 1131CR3619

Commonwealth

v.

NOTICE OF APPEAL

Harvey J. Bigelow

NOTICE OF APPEAL

The defendant, Harvey J. Bigelow, through and by his attorney, hereby gives notice, pursuant to Mass. R. App. P. 3 and 4 of his intent to appeal all opinions, rulings, directions and judgments of the Court in the above-entitled matter.

By His Attorney,

Diana Cowhey McDermott

Attorney at Law

PO Box 574

Falmouth, MA 02541

Tele: 508.548.5356

Fax: 508.388.7566

dianaesq@comcast.net

BBO #: 656057

Date: 4 9 2012

#### CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, Diana Cowhey McDermott, Esq., do hereby certify that today I served the notice of appeal, by first class mail, postage prepaid, upon the following: David Marks, A.D.A., Bristol County District Attorney's Office, PO Box 973, 888 Main Street, New Bedford, MA 02741.

Signed under the pains and penalties of perjury:

Diana Cowhey McDermott

Dated:

					Date/Time Printed 11-18-2011 14.31:39	Version 2.0 - 11/1		
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Harvey J Bigelo					Taunton District Court			
122 Cedar Stree					40 Broadway Street			
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					(508)977-6142			
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Notice to Defendant: 42 U.S.C. § 3796gg-4(e) requires this notice: If you are convicted of a misdemeanor crime of domestic violence you may be prohibited permanently from purchasing and/or possessing a firearm and/or ammunition pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 922 (g) (9) and other applicable related Federal, State, or local laws.

BRISTOL, ss.

TAUNTON DISTRICT COURT DOCKET NO.: 1131CR3619

#### COMMONWEALTH

v.

#### HARVEY J. BIGELOW

#### **DEFENDANT'S MOTION TO DISMISS**

Now comes the Defendant, Harvey J. Bigelow, and moves that this Honorable Court dismiss the complaint charging him with two counts of Criminal Harassment (c. 265, sec. 43A (a)). As grounds therefore, the evidence presented in the complaint was not sufficient to establish any criminal activity let alone probable cause that he so committed the offenses. Commonwealth v. DiBennadetto, 436 Mass. 310, 313 (2002), Commonwealth v. McCarthy, 385 Mass. 160, 163 (1982). DiBennadetto affirms that after the issuance of a complaint, a motion to dismiss will lie for a failure to present sufficient evidence to the clerk-magistrate or judge. Id.

Respectfully Submitted, HARVEY J. BIGELOW By his Attorney,

J. DREW SEGADELLI, ESQUIRE

FAGAN, GOLDRICK & SEGADELLI, P.C.

536 MAIN STREET

FALMOUTH, MA 02540

(508) 540-6900 BBO #: 548168

Dated: March 21, 2012

FAGAN, GOLDRICK SEGADELLI, P.C. ATTORNEYS AT LAW 36 MAIN STREET FALMOUTH, MA 02540 (508) 540-6900

BRISTOL, ss.

TAUNTON DISTRICT COURT DOCKET NO.: 1131CR3619

#### COMMONWEALTH

٧.

#### HARVEY J. BIGELOW

#### <u>DEFENDANT'S MEMORANDUM IN</u> SUPPORT OF MOTION TO DISMISS

Courts generally do not inquire into the competency or sufficiency of the evidence in support of a criminal complaint. However, despite this general rule, a court may properly review the evidence presented to determine whether there was sufficient evidence to find probable cause for arrest or to determine whether the acts which the defendant is alleged to have done constitute a crime. See e.g., Commonwealth v. McCarthy, 385 Mass. 160 (1982); Commonwealth v. O'Dell, 392 Mass. 445 (1984). Though in District Court the charging document is the complaint rather than the grand jury indictment, a determination of probable cause should be similar. See Commonwealth v. Valchuis, 40 Mass.App.Ct. 556, 560 (1996) ("a complaint cannot issue until there has been a determination of probable cause to believe that a crime was committed and that it was committed by the defendant"), citing Smith, Criminal Practice and Procedure §§ 629-632 (2d ed. 1983).

"A defendant against whom a complaint is issued does not lack the opportunity for review of that decision. 'He may move to dismiss the complaint." Commonwealth v. DiBennadetto, 436 Mass. 310, 313 (2002), citing Bradford v. Knights, 427 Mass. 748, 753 (1998). Dismissal of an indictment is called for where the clerk magistrate fails to hear any evidence of criminal activity by the defendant. In order for an indictment to survive such a

challenge, the clerk magistrate must be presented with information that, at the very least, is sufficient to establish the identity of the accused and probable cause to arrest him. Commonwealth v. McCarthy, 385 Mass. 160, 163 (1982). Likewise, dismissal of a complaint should be warranted where the Court determines that probable cause did not exist to issue a complaint. Commonwealth v. DiBennadetto, 436 Mass. 310, 31'3 (2002). Probable cause is that amount of information that would warrant a prudent person in believing that the defendant committed the crime. Commonwealth v. Santaliz, 413 Mass. 238, 241 (1992).

To begin with, the one count of Criminal Harassment in which the named victim is Michael Costello should be automatically dismissed because the clerk magistrate did not hear any evidence of criminal activity by Mr. Bigelow in regards to Mr. Costello. This is true because the Commonwealth failed to show any evidence of a "knowing pattern of conduct or series of acts over a period of time directed at a specific person" which is an essential element of the crime of Criminal Harassment. See M.G.L. c. 265 §43A (a). In Commonwealth v. Welch, 444 Mass. 80, 89 (2005), the Court held that the "phrase 'pattern of conduct or series of acts' requires the Commonwealth to prove three or more incidents of harassment. The Court reasoned that the definition for "series" is "a group of usually three or more things of events" and that the Criminal Harassment statute is closely related to the Criminal Stalking statute which requires more than two incidents of harassment or stalking. Welch at 89. Here, the Commonwealth can show only two letters that were directed at Michael Costello. In fact only one letter actually included him as one of the addressees on the envelope. The Commonwealth attempted to evade this lack of evidence by grouping Mr. and Mrs. Costello together and stating that they received five letters in total. However, it is clear to anyone who examines the content of the letters that only two were directed at Mr. Costello. Therefore, because the Commonwealth was only able to show two

FAGAN, GOLDRICK L SEGADELLI, P.C. ATTORNEYS AT LAW 636 MAIN STREET PALMOUTH, MA 02540 incidents of "harassment" in which Mr. Costello was the victim, the clerk magistrate failed to hear any evidence of criminal activity in regards to him.

As for the one count of Criminal Harassment in which the named victim is Susan Costello, that charge should also be dismissed due to the lack of any evidence of criminal activity. M.G.L. c. 265 §43A requires that the person at whom the conduct is directed suffer substantial emotional distress. Here, the only evidence of any sort of distress is one sentence in Detective Brian Ramos's report in which Mrs. Costello stated the letters she had received had caused her some "emotional distress." Merely stating that emotional distress has occurred is insufficient. Instead there must be a showing that the distress was "considerable, of importance, solid and real...something markedly greater than the level of uneasiness, nervousness, unhappiness or the like which is commonly experienced in day to day living." Criminal Harassment Jury Instruction, 6.640 (2011). The idea is to avoid "litigation in situations where only bad manners and mere hurt feelings are involved." Agis v. Howard Johnson Company, 371 Mass. 140, 145 (1976) quoting Womack v. Eldridge, 215 Va. 338, 242 (1974). As noted above. no evidence was presented that could even arguably support a claim that the letters caused Mrs. Costello to suffer substantial emotional distress. Thus because a significant element of the crime was completely absent, the clerk magistrate failed to hear any evidence of criminal activity in regards to Mrs. Costello.

Furthermore, it should be noted that because Mrs. Costello is the spouse of a member of the Rehoboth Board of Selectmen, she is a public figure. Considering that the letters were used as a means to criticize the actions of Mr. and Mrs. Costello in their capacity as public figures, we must also look at this in the context of free speech. Following the logic of defamation law, public figures, such as Mr. and Mrs. Costello, have a higher threshold to overcome than private

citizens do. The Costellos have placed themselves into the public eye and therefore have opened themselves up to criticism such as that contained in the letters. Consequently, the malice requirement of M.G.L. c. 265 §43A becomes a pivotal element. According to New York Times Co. v. Sullivan, 376 US 254 (1964), a public figure must show that the person acted with actual malice meaning with knowledge that the statements were false or with reckless disregard as to whether they were false or not. Once again, no evidence was presented to show that necessary actual malice and thus no evidence of a crime was placed before the clerk magistrate.

There was a complete lack of evidence to support either count of Criminal Harassment. At the very most the Commonwealth was only able to produce evidence of the receipt of annoying letters by both Mr. and Mrs. Costello and speculation that the person responsible for those letters was Mr. Bigelow. That alone does not equate to probable cause, or even reasonable suspicion, to charge the Defendant with the crimes listed. Thus, for the reasons stated above, the Defendant, Harvey J. Bigelow, respectfully requests that all counts listed in the complaint against him be dismissed.

Respectfully Submitted, HARVEY J. BIGELOW By his Attorney,

G. DREW SEGADELLI, ESQUIRE FAGAN GOLDBICK & SEGADELLI P

FAGAN, GOLDRICK & SEGADELLI, P.C.

536 MAIN STREET

FALMOUTH, MA 02540

(508) 540-6900 BBO #: 548168

Dated: March 21, 2012

BRISTOL, ss.

TAUNTON DISTRICT COURT DOCKET NO. 1131CR3619

#### COMMONWEALTH

VS.

#### HARVEY J. BIGELOW

#### **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I, J. Drew Segadelli, Attorney for the Defendant, hereby certify that I have, this date, March 21, 2012, served the within MOTION TO DISMISS and MEMORANDUM IN SUPPORT OF MOTION TO DISMISS upon the Commonwealth, by delivering, via first class mail, postage pre-paid, a copy of the same to the District Attorney's Office, 5 Post Office Square, Taunton, MA 02780.

Respectfully submitted,

JOREW SEGADELLI, ESQUIRE

FAGAN, GOLDRICK & SEGADELLI, P.C.

536 MAIN STREET

FALMOUTH, MA 02540

(508) 540-6900

BBO #: 548168

BRISTOL, ss.

TAUNTON DISTRICT COURT DOCKET NO.: 1131CR3619

#### COMMONWEALTH

VS.

#### HARVEY J. BIGELOW

# MOTION TO EXCLUDE ROBERT FOLEY AS EXPERT WITNESS FOR COMMONWEALTH

NOW COMES the Defendant through Counsel and respectfully moves this Honorable Court to exclude Robert Foley as an expert witness for the Commonwealth. As reason therefore, Counsel states that Mr. Foley is not a qualified Question Document Examiner.

Respectfully submitted, HARVEY I. BIGELOW By his attorney.

J. DREW SECADELLI, ESQUIRE FAGAN, GOLDRICK & SEGADELLI, P.C. 536 MAIN STREET FALMOUTH, MA 02540 (508) 540-6900 BBO# 548168

Dated: August 12, 2013

FAGAN, GOLDRICK & SEGADELLI, P.C. TTORNEYS AT LAW 536 MAIN STREET ALMOUTH, MA 02540

BRISTOL, ss.

TÄUNTON DISTRICT COURT DOCKET NO. 1131CR3619

#### COMMONWEALTH

VS.

#### HARVEY J. BIGELOW

#### **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I, J. Drew Segadelli, Attorney for the Defendant, hereby certify that I have, this date, August 12, 2013, served the within MOTION TO EXCLUDE ROBERT FOLEY AS EXPERT WITNESS FOR THE COMMONWEALTH upon the Commonwealth, by delivering, in hand a copy of the same to the District Attorney's Office, 40 Broadway Street Taunton, MA 02780.

Respectfully submitted,

J. DREW SEGADELLI, ESQUIRE FAGAN, GOLDRICK & SEGADELLI, P.C. 536 MAIN STREET FALMOUTH, MA 02540

(508) 540-6900 BBO #: 548168

# COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS TRIAL COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH

BRISTOL, ss.

TAUNTON DISTRICT CT. Docket No. 11.03619

#### COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

VS.

HARUFY RIGHTOW

Defendant

### COMMONWEALTH'S LIST OF POTENTIAL WITNESSES

NOW COMES the Commonwealth and submits the following list of potential
witnesses:
VI. MICHAEL COSTRLO - REHOBOTH V2. SUSAN COSTRLO - REHOBOTH
W. HRATHER ROSILLI - RRHOBOTH
ISTRUNIS RIGELOW - REIT UBOTH
S. SGT. BRIAN RAMOS - REHOBOTH POLICE
6. ROBERT FOLEY - PLYMOUTH SHERIFFS
7. Patricia me Millon (Reholard)
8

atty- Drew Segadelli atty- Danid V I Veirss

Respectfully Submitted, For the Commonwealth

C. Samuel Sutter,
DISTRICT ATTORNEY
FOR THE BRISTOL DISTRICT,

Assistant District Attorney 40 Broadway, Suite 200

R. 18

Taunton, MA 02780

# 11-157-PRB) 11-330-0F

MICHAEL COSTELLO - THE BIGGEST FUCKING LOSER I HAVE EVER MET. YOU SHOULD BE UTTERLY ASHAMED OF YOURSELF FOR EVEN SUGGESTING THAT ANYONE TAKE YOU SERIOUSLY AS "CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMAN". IT WON'T BE LONG BEFORE YOU CRASH AND BURN BIG TIME. DO YOU REALLY THINK THAT YOU CAN FOOL ALL OF THE PEOPLE ALL OF THE TIME? I WILL TELL YOU WHY BECAUSE YOU ARE TOO FUCKING DUMB TO SEE IT.

YOU HAVE SPENT TIME IN PRISON FOR VARIOUS FELONY CONVICTIONS. HORNER MILLWORK?
YOU FUCKED OVER A NICE OLD MAN TO GET YOUR 40B HOUSING.

YOU TRIED TO KILL YOUR LAST WIFE.

YOUR NEW GIRLFRIEND IS THE BIGGEST FUCKING PIG THAT EVER SET FOOT INTO CHARONNAYS. SHE LOOKS LIKE A CRACKHEAD THAT JUST ESCAPED FROM BUTLER HOSPITAL.

YOU ARE THE LAZIEST MOTHER FUCKER IN REHOBOTH. WHAT WILL YOU DO FOR MONEY WHEN FERREIRA THROWS YOU AWAY? WHY DON'T YOU GET A REAL JOB?

YOUR OWN MOTHER THREW YOU UNDER THE BUS!!!! YO U DISGRACED HER.

YOU HAVE A PROBLEM WITH DRUGS AND ALCOHOL.

JUST WATCH YOUSELF ON THE REPAC TAPES — YOU ARE A DISGRACE AND A JOKE- CAN'T SPEAK THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE EVEN CLOSE. YOU BUTCHER PRONUNCIATION, CAN'T FORM A SENTENCE, OR ARTICULATE A THOUGHT WITHOUT GETTING TEATO TO HELP YOU.

YOU ENEN LOOK LIKE A THUG WITH THAT PRISON HAIRCUT AND GREASE. ASSHOLE-YOU NEED TO BE ABOUT 20 YEARS YOUNGER TO EVEN THINK ABOUT THAT HAIR STYLE.

YOUR GIRLFRIEND NEEDS TO GO BAC K TO WEIGHT WATCHERS AND GET HER HAIR FIXED AND HAVE HER RACOON EYES WASHED.

YOU ARE NOT EVEN CLOSE TO BEING CAPABLE IN ANY WAY TO BE A SELECTMAN, NEVER MIND A FLOOR SWEEPER. TOTALLY NOT CAPABLE TO DO THE JOB.

THE CHIEF MADE A COMPLETE FOOL OF YOU THE OTHER NIGHT IN CASE YOU DIDN'T GET IT.
THE TIDE IS TURNING AGAINST YOU IN TOWN AND PEOPLE ARE TALKING ABOUT YOU-NEGATIVELY.
I WAS IN VINO'S FRIDAY NIGHT AND YOU SHOULD HAVE HEARD YOUR SO CALLED FRIENDS TALKING ABOUT YOU. NOONE WANTS TO HITCH THEIR CART TO A LOSER.

CAN'T YOU SEE THAT YOU ARE WAY, WAY IN OVER YOUR HEAD.

THE TROMBETTA DECISION REALLY BURIED YOU. ANOTHER LOSER LIKEYOU IN THE OPINION OF MOST. BETTER GET ENOS BACK IN THERE QUICK, BEFORE ITS TOO LATE.

I HEAR THAT A GROUP OF PEOPLE WILL BE AT ALL FUTURE TOWN MEETING TO STARE YOU DOWN, TALK OU OF TURN, CRITICISE - JUST LIKE YOU USE TO DO. LOOK FOR THE BIG SHIT EATIN GRINS.

FACE IT MIKE- YOU ARE "ALL DONE "YOU FUCKING IDIOT.

THIS IS HOW IT WILL GO DOWN REAL SOON, - YOU WILL BE ARRESTED AT TOWN MEETING, RELIEVED OF ALL YOUR TOWN POSITIONS, AND ULTIMITELY BE SENT TO PRISON AS A 2 TIME LOSER CONVICTED FELON. I'M GUESSING MAYBE 10 YEARS THIS TIME IF NOTHING ELSE COMES OUT. SOUND GOOD YOU FUCKING ASSHOLE.

CAN'T WAIT TO SEE HOW YOU HANDLE MONDAY NIGHT. WE WILL ALL BE STARING AT YOU.!!!!!!!!!!

THIS LETTER WILL BE ALL OVER TOWN BY THEN AS WELL AS AT SELECTMENS MEETING.

YOU REALLY FUCKED UP THIS TIME MIKEY BOY.

Bigelow EXHIBIT

11-157-PRB 11-330-0F

1-330-0F

BCI Case 201106260

Mr. Mr. Costello Judeth Charle Canl Reholoth, Ma

Q1A

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Minister the behild of the behild of the behild

AND WANT MALE STREET TROVADENCE RICE

11-3619 EXHIBIT

### BCI Case 201106260

Q1G

OK MIKEY- WE ALL TOLD YOU WHAT WAS GOING TO HAPPEN AND YOU DIDN'T BELIEVE IT. YOU WERE NOT EVEN SMART ENOUGH TO FIX YOUR HAIR AND CERTAINLY DID NOT DO ANYTHING ABOUT YOUR LACK OF ABILITY TO SPEAK ENGLISH, I SAW YOU ON TV. BUT YOU WERE SO NERVOUS AND SWEATING. WHAT WOULD YOU DO WITHOUT TEATO TO HELP YOU. HE IS A LIEING BASTARD JUST LIKE YOU AND HAS NO BALLS. I SAW AT TOWN MEETING THAT HE SAID HE CHECKED INTO SEEKONK AND THAT THEY DO NOT DO CORI CHECKS ON ELECTED OFFICIALS WHEN INDEED THEY CERTAINLY DO. HE HAS YET TO TAKE A POSITION ON YOUR CRIMINAL MESS. JUST SITS THERE AND GRINS LIKE A FAGAT AND TALKS ABOUT THE BOY SCOUTS WHILE ROME (REHOBOTH) BURNS. HE SAYS IN HIS ELECTION BULLSHIT THAT HE SUPPORTS CORIS AND THEN FLIP FLOPS. AND JUST TO THINK THAT I BELIEVED YOU TWO ASSHOLES AND VOTED FOR YOU BOTH. WHAT A MISTAKE. EVEN BONNIE IS APPALLED AND HAS CALLED AN EMERGENCY MEETING OF CC FOR NEXT WEEK. THEY HAVE BEEN MEETING PRIVATELY THIS WEEK. JUST WAIT TILL YOU SEE WHERE THEY ARE AT. LIED TO OVER AND OVER!!!!

I WILL PREDICT AGAIN- MAYBE YOU WILL BELIEVE THIS TIME. MIKEY THE VILLAGE IDIOT HAS NO CHOICE. RESIGN IMMEDIATELY OR ELSE. OR BE PUT ON ADMINISTRATIVE LEAVE — PENDING INVESTIGATION. JUST ASK GENERAL RETREATER TO COMMENT. HE WILL INDEED BE AT SELECTMENS MEETING. I WILL. HOW ABOUT THE GENERALS MEETING WITH THE FBI. AT LEAST LEFFORT HAS SOME BALLS AND IS NOT RESIGNING AND RUNNING.

THE WHOLE TOWN IS WAITING FOR TUESDAY NIGHT TO SEE WHAT YOU BOTH DO WITH THE CHIEF. CLEARLY YOU HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO IMMEDIATELY REINSTATE HIM. HOW COULD YOU TWO IDIOTS POSSIBLY LEAVE CONVICTED FELON MIKEY SITTING AT THE TABLE — AND NOT REINSTATE THE CHIEF. NO FUCKING WAY UNLESS YOU BOTH WANTED TO BE LAUGHED OUT OF TOWN. HYPOCRITES ARE WORSE THAN THIEVES???? CAN'T HAVE IT BOTH WAYS CAN YOU????

HOW ABOUT WE ALL SIGN A NO CONFIDENCE VOTE IN BOTH OF YOU AND PUT YOU BOTH ON LEAVE FOR A MONTH UNTIL WE INVESTIGATE. OR BETTER YET A RECALL FOR BOTH OF YOU SINCE I KNOW YOU ARE FOND OF THESE SPINELESS ACTS.

HOW CAN HE- MIKEY- POSSIBLY SIT IN JUDGEMET OF THE CHIEF WITHOUT EXPOSING THE TOWN TO A GIANT LAWSUIT? MIKEY MUST RECUSE HIMSELF UNTIL THE HORTON ESTATES MESS IS CLEARED UP

IT HAS BEEN LESS THAN 2 MONTHS AND LETS SEE WHAT VOTERS ARE DISCUSSING ABOUT THE PERFORMANCE OF YOU 2 HOT SHOTS. NOTHING NOTHING NOTHING DONE EXCEPT: PUT THE CHIEF ON LEAVE SO THAT HE COULDN'T INVESTIGATE MIKEY. TOO LATE -THE INVESTIGATOR GENERAL WAY AHEAD OF YOU. ATTORNEY GENERAL IN HOT PURSUIT HA! HA. PUT A KNOWN COCAINE ADDICT IN AS ACTING CHIEF. HOW ABOUT A DRUG TEST FOR HIM IF YOU CAN WAKE HIM UP WHILE SLEEPING AND DRUGGING ON THE JOB. CAUSED OUR TAXES TO RISE BY GIVING YOUR USELESS BUDDIES A RAISE. EVEN WORSE IDIOT MIKEY IS SUGGESTING ON TAPE THAT WE DO A PROP 2 ½ OVERRIDE EVEN BEFORE THE BUDGET IS DONE.

JOEJOE SUPPOSEDLY A RESPECTED DR. GETTING INVOLVED WITH MIKEY A CONVICTED FELON? CAN NOT WAIT TO SEE THE RESULTS OF HIS POLIC E DEPT INVESTIGATION AT THE NEXT SELECTMENS MEETING. YOU ARE ABOUT TO DESTROY THE CAREER OF A POLICE CHIEF OVER ONE SIMPLE MISTAKE WHILE BEING SUPPORTIVE OF MIKEY — A MULTIPLE TIME CONVICTED FELON. WHAT ARE YOU THINKING JOEJOE? THE CHIEF DID GREAT IN HIS LAST INTERVIEW. I THINK YOU HAVE SHOWN EXTREMELY BAD JUDGEMENT AND MADE VERY BAD CHOICES BY TEAMING UP WITH MIKEY. I CERTAINLY WOULD NOT WANT YOU AS MY SURGEON — YOU WOULD PROBABLY CHOOSE TO CUT OFF THE WRONG ARM OR LEG. PLEASE HELP TO RESTORE HONESTY AND INTEGRITY TO REHOBOTH DO THE RIGHT THING AND SHOW US ALL THAT YOU DO INDEED HAVE A BRAIN AND THE STONES TO STAND UP FOR WHAT IS RIGHT. YOU CAN BE THE CATALYST AND A LEADER I HOPE. I WOULD LIKE TO TALK TO BOTH YOU AND MIKEY AT THE

#### BCI Case 201106260

Q<sub>1</sub>H

NEXT SELECTMENS MEETING AS WELL AS AT THE CC MEETING NEXT WEEK. YOU WILL BE THERE??? HAVE BONNIE POST ON HER BLOG. SHE SAYS SHE IS CONFUSED THOUGH.

BOTH MIKEYS AND JOEJOES FUTURE AS SELECTMEN HANGS IN THE BALANCE AS TO HOW THEY FIRST HANDLE THE CHIEF AND THEN HANDLE MIKEY.

**ENOUGH DISCUSSION - NOW SOME HARD FACTS:** 

1.MIKEY IS INDEED BEING INVESTIGATED BY NOT ONLY THE INSPECTOR GENERAL, BUT ALSO THE ATTORNEY GENERAL AND FBI. WHAT HE WROTE WAS A LIE.

READ FOR YOURSELF THE IG'S REPORT — DECIDE FOR YOUSELF — IS THE IG A TOTAL ASSHOLE AND ALL OF HIS CONCLUSIONS WRONG? DO YOU BELIEVE MIKEY OR HIS POOR OLD MOTHER THAT HE HAS SPINELESSLY CHOSEN TO THROW OFF A CLIFF?

MIKEY NOT ONLY IS GUILTY OF FRAUD BUT SCREWED A NICE OLD SENIOR CITIZEN OF OUR TOWN OUT OF THIS HOUSE BY SCAMING THE LOTTERY. DISGRACEFUL.

CAN ALL OF THE INFO IN THE IG'S REPORT BE WRONG- IF ONLY PART OF IT IS TRUE MIKEY SHOULD BE HISTORY IN ALL REHOBOTH GOVERNMENT NOW AND FOREVER.

2.MIKEY WAS INDEED CONVICTED OF STEALING FROM HORNER MILLWORK AND SENTENCED TO THREE YEARS IN PRISON PLUS PROBABATION AND RESTITUTION.

I CONTACTED THE OWNER OF HORNER MILLWORK MYSELF AS I KNOW HIM AND CONFIRMED THESE FACTS. WHEN I TOLD HIM ABOUT WHAT WAS GOING ON IN REHOBOTH HE BECAME ENRAGED AND TOLD ME HOW MIKEY TOTALLY LIED ABOUT THE STEALING IN THE BEGINNING, JUST AS HE DID HERE. HE RECOUNTED HOW MIKEY WAS IN A SCHEME WITH ONE OF HIS EMPLOYEES TO STEAL WINDOWS AND OTHER THINGS AND WHEN CAUGHT THREATENED HARM TO HIM AND HIS FAMILY IF HE DID NOT DROP THE CHARGES. HE (THE OWNER) OFFERED TO COME TO THE REHOBOTH SELECTMENS MEETING ON TUESDAY TO TESTIFY. HE ALSO SAID THAT HE IS GOING TO CALL TURN TO 10 AND CHANNEL 6 AND GET THEM THERE, HE IS A VERY POWERFUL AND ARTICULATE GUY AND HAS NO STOMACH FOR THIS KIND OF BULLSHIT. HE ALSO SAID THAT HE HAD TO CHASE MIKEY FOREVER TO GET RESTITUTION. OH OH OH! I WOULD NOT WANT TO BE MIKEY WHEN THIS GUY ARRIVES IN FORCE. HE ALSO TOLD ME THAT IF THE CITIZENS OF REHOBOTH WANT TO VERIFY FOR THEMSELVES - THE GO TO THE DISTRICT COURT IN FALL RIVER MASS AND THE POLICE DEPARTMENT AND GET A COPY OF MIKES ARREST AND CONVICTION. ITS PUBLIC RECORD AND WE WILL HAVE IT AT TUESDAYS MEETING.

- 3.ALMOST SIMUTANEOUSLY AND THROUGH THE HORNER MAN I ALSO FOUND OUT THAT MIKE ALSO HAD BEEN CONVICTED OF FORGERY IN A CHECK CASHING SCHEME IN RI.
- 4. THERE ARE ALSO ALLEGATIONS AROUND TOWN THAT MIKEY WAS STEALING FROM THE LIONS CLUB, AMERICAN LEGION ETC.

MIKEY REMEMBER THE GUYS FROM N. PROVIDENCE WHO RECENTLY WERE SENT TO PRISON FOR 6 YRS. WE SHOULD ALL TAKE A LESSON FROM THEM. RESIGN IMMEDIATELY I SUGGEST. JOE JOE —YOU CAN BE SAVED —DO THE RIGHT THING MR. BOYSCOUT. THINK AHEAD.

DONT EMBARRASS AND DISGRACE REHOBOTHANY MORE.

ONE OF THE CONCERNED CITIZENS

THIS IS SUCH A GOOD LETTER I THINK I WILL SEND IT AROUND AND POST IT AT VINO'S. CC TO NEW TOWN ADMINISTRATOR- MR JEFF RITTER. IG, AG, FBI. POOR MIKEY!!!!

John Kiepler, Rehoboth Resident Ju.

11-174-MCLONY

11-330-0F

May 25. 2021

#### Tollow Up to Costulo gate

Mr. Costello cites "my CORI has no record" and "there is nothing on my CORI".

True statements from Mr. Costello (maybe the first truthful statements he has utiered). Unfortunately, a CORI only takes into consideration the past to years and Mr. Costello has two prior criminal convictions predating this period, one for check fraud and another for knowingly receiving stolen property (a felony for which he was sentenced to a 3 years suspended sentence and 1 year probation with restitution (Communwealth of MA vs. Michael Costello to which he pleads GUILTY on 3/16/1992)

It is time for this individual to face reality for once in his life and step aside

It gets even better, today he writes that now he wants us to believe that he has evidence of his appropriate acquisition of his Horton Estate residence. Funny, he did not have any of this "evidence" over the past several months while the MA IG's office was taking his sworn testimony during deposition sessions. Perhaps he just forgot where he put them - right?

Mr. Costello, save the residents of Rehoboth, even the "concerned" ones, any more of your lies and decen and move on. Better yet, take your act to RI where politicians like you are welcomed with open arms.

Jim Anderson - A Reformer who is truly a concerned about the integrity of our town

attachent to

May 23, 200

The Poopie of Bahavall.

There have been several recent attempts to mailign me and my reputation. Most are aware of flyers that have been distributed to Rehoboth residents that contains

http://www.rehobothnow.com/Vox Populi.html

Elect Joe Tito

Page 3 of 12

5/26/2011



Mul. H

I am running for Selectman in the Town of Rchoboth and so is Dr. Joseph Tito. Joe is running for the one year term and I am running for the three year term. I support Joe because he an independent thinker and someone who has a lot of common sense. He is exactly who we need as a Selectman in Rehoboth.

I have had the pleasure of working with Joe on the Planning Board for over four years. His dedication and commitment to the Planning Board and to the entire Town of Rehoboth is why I am honored to not only support Joe Tito for Selectman, but to run side by side with him. Please vote for me and Joe Tito on Election Day, April 4, 2011.

MA MAN HOMA PAR HIL

Swan Ostello 1. Judith Conne Cisc. Pehoboth, Ma.

Hambled Historial distribution of the Holling

BCI Case 201106260

R. 25

11-124-PR(P)

Mikey + SusanFlease forward your new address

AFTER YOU MOVE. I know where you have.

I 245,000 to buy that herse in our development,

The Flores boys + the newsmen will be there Tues. I wouldn't show up

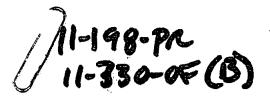
of Iwere you.

a Concerned Citizen

Q1J

BCI Case 201106260

Referencial ....



June 11, 2011

BIGERW EXHIBIT
11-3619

TI 3

Mrs. Michael Costello 11 Judith Ann Circle Rehoboth, MA 02769

Dear Mrs. Costello:

I am sure you are not surprised to receive another letter regarding the disgusting, cheat you are married to. This all may have happened prior to your marriage, but truly, now that you know, what were you thinking getting tied up with such a scum bag.

Suppose it had been one of your parents that had been scammed out of the low income housing, would you feel differently? There is no one lower than someone who preys on the elderly; his own mother included.

Since your husband has no visible means of support, are you happy that you are the sole bread winner? This is another outstanding character trait that your husband possesses. Or does he always have a pocket full of cash that has no named origin??

We are all judged by the company we keep. In your case, you are up to your eyeballs in muck, what does that say about you? How can you defend a convicted felon? What not come clean and tell the truth? It's a matter of public record. He wasn't a young kid that made a mistake, but rather a grown man caught stealing. How will you feel when the owner of Horner Millwork comes forward? What will you say then in defense of your husband?

Have you selected a new place to live? Maybe now would be a good time to preplan your future. Kick his ass to the curb and start fresh. He's a monkey you definitely don't need on your back. If I were you, I'd spend less time defending this worthless human being and more time worrying about yourself.

Sincerely,

A Concerned Citizen

11-198-20-05 11-330-05

REVER

ENGLIS FINEST

EXHIBIT

Mrs. Michael Costello 11 Judith Ann Circle Rehoboth, MA 02769

COLFOR TANDE

June 21, 2011

Mis Michael Costello 11 Sudien Andlen de Rehoboth NA 207769 Forensic Services Group

11-09823 Rehoboth

I# 1-1 / Dept : REH

dDe a Mir sico siello

Well another week has gone by and we have local entopreciation wall and so another week has gone by and we have local entopreciation wall and so another week has gone by another had been another town and decide who gets what a local end to also also also a long. He would be a local end to a long any longer. People are wise to him also also had been a control with a local end of the sheep to slaughter.

Town and lead the sheep to slaughter.

Wake up and smell the coffee! No one wants himsen towal only iche sentence. Aller he is independent him – he'll kick him to the curb too. Then where will you be supposing a convicted reliable and no hopes of ever finding a legitimate job either? The authorities will continue to be you and he just can't stand it anymore. Maybe you will have to live like Whitey Buiger and or reliable plastic surgeons to have any hope of a peaceful lines tyle. The only difference is white a summing funds and you don't

What if John Ferreira was hit by a truck tomorrow, do you honesdy think he has remembered by the government is coming soon—what will you live one work salary? So I had soon Supporting an assimple whose main objective is to look stupid and sound even more soundly here he opens his mouths.

Consince that moron to resign and then kick his ass, to the curb. That with best thing you could no for fulfille stats time you began to think about yourself. He will only drag you down with him a like give you the benefit of the doubt and assume "love is blind". But really, take off those blinders and see him for what he really is: A disgusting piece of suit, that no one likes, except Lorraine Bohss Marke hey more going on than you suspect. Why else would she be such a staunch supporter. Maybe the last him for felons. After all, many women have endeared themselves to convicts that have noted as a liming for felons. After all, many women have endeared themselves to convicts that have noted as a liming for felons.

Ohwellshop Bissime ba

a wak up sing smell the copies. You still have a life in front of you spon t let read place your annever second frome.

Sincerely,

A Concerned Citizen

Bigebio EXHIBIT

Forensic Services Group

11-09823 Rehoboth

I# 1-2 / Dept.: REH
Paper

Inter

P. 24

attached natton

July 2011 The Reporter 5

The letters in this section do not reflect the views of the staff of The Rehoboth Reporter it is not our intent to take sides on any issues, but to present all arguments from an points of view. If your point of view is not represented on an issue, it is only because you have not voiced your upinion, Let us their from YOM

What's Going Of

There was an eleptront in a section ha May 16 Rehobata fown Meeting are publicly came toward to accress it. The fown has reached the point where we the not ebis to keep up with our expenses. "or two years in a row, we have dipped into our stabilization fund to be ance for topo Thouse sentially underfunding line of the property of the interest of backette in the interest of the interest and able.

Our financo committee chairmant the opportunity in the Town Warrant to rescize past finance committees tordage respital planating. This year we could not ch med harber to of our basic services a where is the moon supposed to come may for charged muny in m?

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> eter Hebda Rehoboth

Rehoboth's Future

-ar inspiser Hodoholb resident retired attorney and concerned for Retroboth's well being and reputation. The negetive events over severally ears have polsoned the well and will destroy our credibility.

You begin to wonder has Rehoboth, MA become the stepchild of Johnston or North Browdenca, Rl. The Town of Flehoboth must recaptors to positive herbage and but an and to u. Jawawsed spiral. Rehaboth residenis we cradentials of higher education, worldly a posure, positive personal charractor et . . uportor values need to limit dich voice or . articipate in community service.

The 'ssachusetts inspector Generel's to regarding Michael C. stello's atrosas p. to our advantage and alfords Renoboti e unbiased opportulity to have throe le agencies Massach, etts Altoney De rais Department, Ols en schaper in legeral and Massachs en

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THE REHOBOTH/SEEKONK

# EPORTER

P.O. Box 170 Rehoboth, MA 02769 @ 2011 Target Marketing Group, Inc.

We welcome all ideas, photos. cies, news releases and notices reserve the right to reluse any submission, including classified ads and display advertising.

**ALL NEWS ITEMS MUST** BE SUBMITTED BY THE 25TH OF THE MONTH

It MUST INCLUDE the name and phone number of the sender.

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\*HONE 508-252-6575 Fex 252-8320

he vs@rehobothreporter.com

VI: It Our Website at ... WVW ehobothReport r.com he Rehoboth Reporter, it is not our intent to take sides on any issues, but to present arguments from all points of view. If your point of view is not represented on an sue, it is only because you have not voiced your opinion. Let us hear from YOU!

What's Going On?

There was an elephant in the room at vay 16 Rehoboth Town Meeting but no publicly came forward to eddress it. town has reached the point where we not able to keep up with our expenses, wo years in a row, we have dipped into stabilization fund to balance our town get. Furthermore, there was discussion it essentially underfunding line items with the intent of backfilling them in the more money becomes available.

Jur finance committee chairman took opportunity in the Town Warrant to size past finance committees for lack spital planning. This year we could not meet the needs of our basic services here is the money supposed to come for capital planning?

Since 1982, the State of Massachusetts aces Proposition 2.5 which limits the sase in property taxes in any given year 5%. It is largely these taxes that fund our a budget. While this limit has worked in sast, we have reached a point where it is inger reasonable to assume that a 2.5% sase will always be sufficient to meet the is of the town. Costs are rising at a rate ar than 2.5% which means that under imitation, we will not be able to fund the a amount of services that we had the before. We don't want to always raise s as our first reaction to a budget shortbut after working through several budget as where money has become very light. after examining all of our town budgets duce costs as much as possible, it is to say that we are running out of options than continue to cut services.

leniors living on a fixed income would te hardest hit by a proposition 2.5 overso we should consider providing either a reduced cost or exemption option for our serior citizens if an override should become necessary.

We need to begin a discussion on our options for meeting potential budget shortfalls within the next year and a modest proposition 2.5 override should be a part of that discussion. Given the age and condition of our present town buildings, we can't afford to wait until an emergency situation forces us to take action.

Peter Hebda Rehoboth

### Rehoboth's Future

I am a seasoned Rehoboth resident, retired attorney and concerned for Rehoboth's well being and reputation. The negative events over several years have poisoned the well and will destroy our credibility.

You begin to wonder has Rehaboth, MA become the stepchild of Johnston or North Providence, Pl. The Town of Rehaboth must recapture its positive heritage and put an end to our downward spiral. Rehaboth residents with credentials of higher education, worldly exposure, positive personal character and superior values need to find their voice and participate in community service.

The Massachusetts Inspector General's report regarding Michael Costello's abuses plays to our advantage and affords Rehoboth the unbiased opportunity to have three state agencies: Massachusetts Attorney Generals Department, Office of the Inspector General and Massachusetts State Ethics Commission, without delay, to sanction, proceed civilly and crimmally against Michael Costello thus establishing precedent and serving the ends of justice.

Herbert M. Adams Rehoboth

# 100% CIRCIII ATION!

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We welcome all ideas, photos, articles, news releases and notices that affect these areas.

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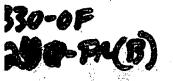
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MI IMEIM HAM AMA AMA

11 Judith Ann Circle Rehoboth, MA 02769 U-661-16 32



HEY SUE

Come to the meeting on Morro.

HEY LORRAINE -PUT THIS ON THE BLOG -HOW STUPID CAN YOU BE

YOU TALK ABOUT THE CHIEF AND A FORMER SELECTMAN BUT FAIL TO PUT ANYTHING UP ABOUT YOUR GOLDEN BOY MIKEY. ARE YOU SCREWING HIM TOO?

Q1C

-WORD ABOUT TOWN IS THAT HE IS SCREWING THE ASSISTANT. TOWN CLERK OR TREASURER OR MAYBE BOTH. THERE ARE PICTURES BEING CIRCULATED THAT PROVE IT: WOULD YOU LIKE SOME?

WHY DON'T YOU PUT UP THE NEWSPAPER ARTICLE ABOUT THE 26 NEIGHBORS THAT WANT HIM OUT AT ONCE. ALSO TO PAY BACK THE MONEY HE STOLE FROM THEM.

DID YOU KNOW THAT DUVALLY IS MAKING DEALS AND ROLLING ON MIKEY. MONEY TALKS????

STOLE 40B HOUSE FROM YOUR FELLOW SENIOR CITIZENS

STOLE WINDOWS FROM HORNER

. FORGED CHECKS

.STOLE FROM LIONS CLUB

STOLE FROM LEGION

- . STOLE FROM FIREMEN
- .FORGED TITLE TO WIFES CAR
- SET FIRE TO WIFES HOUSE WITH HER IN IT.

. SCREWED THE CLEANING LADY AND THEN MARRIED HER

Byelow EXHIBIT

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LORRAINE- HOW STUPID CAN YOU BE TO SUPPORT SUCH A BUM -THIS IS A REFLECTION ON YOU TOO.

IF HE HAS ALL THE EVIDENCE TO DEFEND HIMSELF WHY DON'T YOU'RUT IT ON THE BLOG ALSO.

YOU SMEAR THE BLOG WITH: USELESS INFORMATION YET FAIL TO BE OBJECTIVE WITH THE IMPORTANT.

YOU AND BITCHY BONNIE SHOOT YOUR MOUTHS OFF AND RUN - HAVEN'T HEARD FROM HER IN WEEKS: NERVOUS AND DISAPPOINTED WITH THE O'S AND ALL THEIR LYING??

A FELLOW CONCERNED CITIZEN - MAY BE JUMPING SHIP SOON THOUGH

**BCI Case 201106260** 



THE MATTER WELL

SUSAN "THE MAD" COSTELLE II JUDITH ANN CIRCLE RETOBOTA, M.

BCI Case 201106260

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11-240- PR(A)

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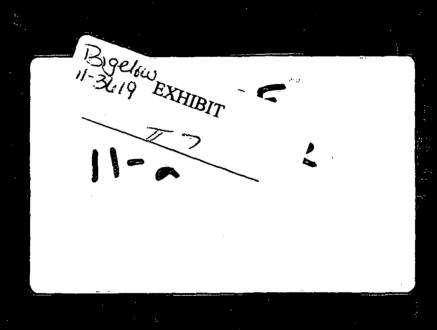
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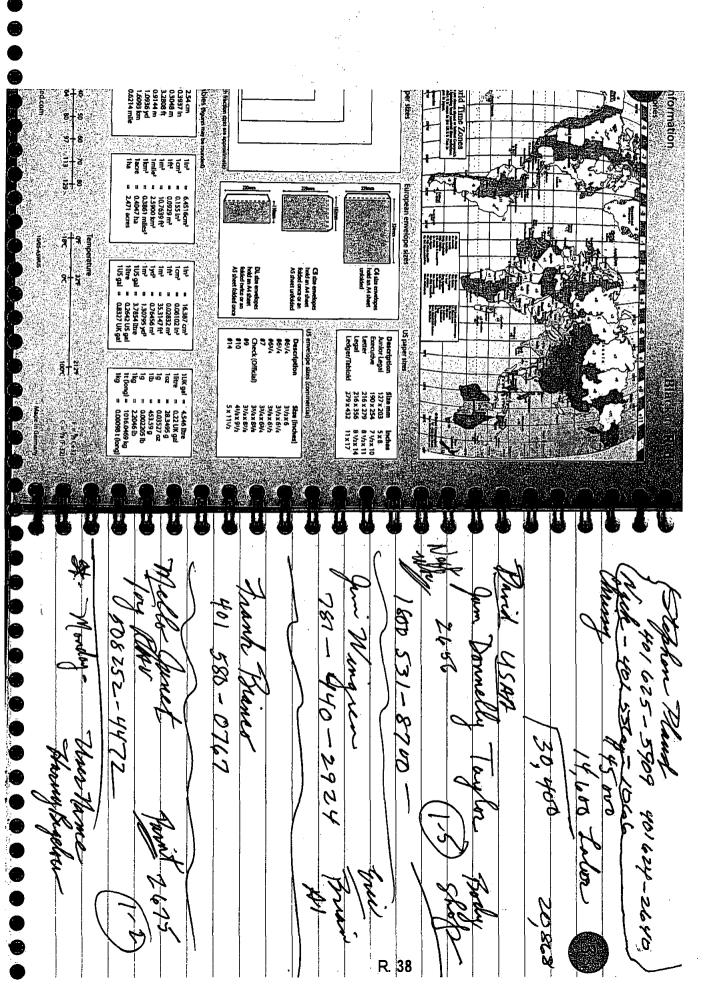
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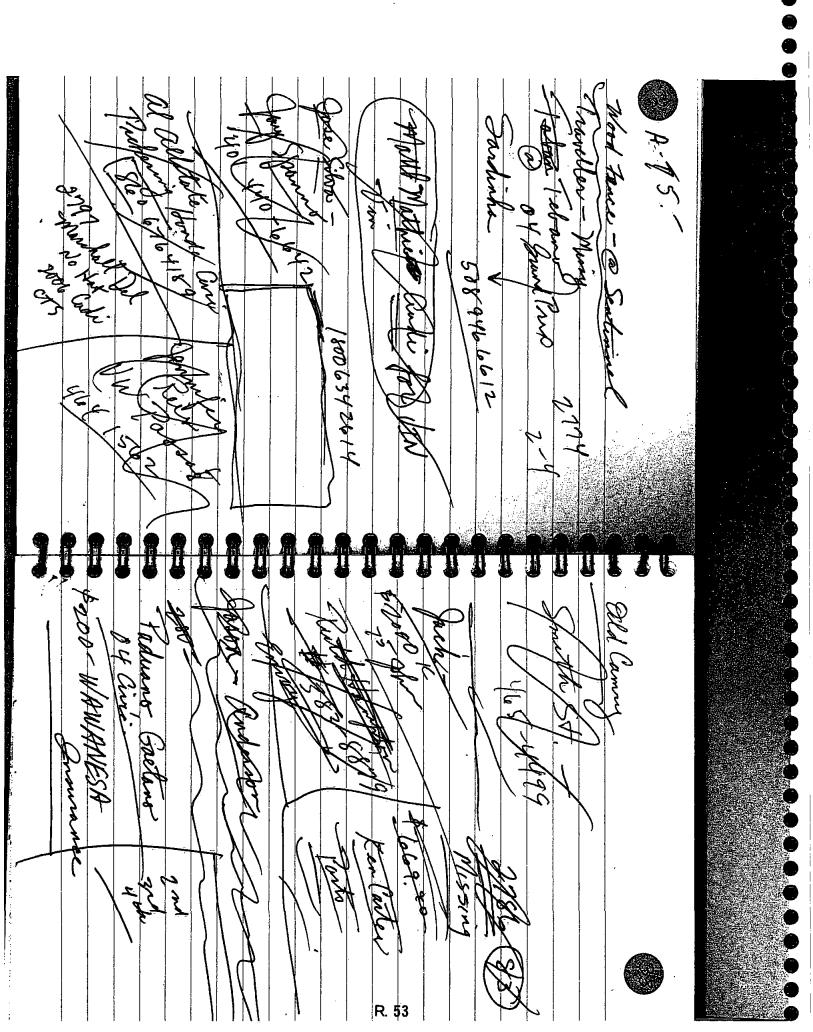
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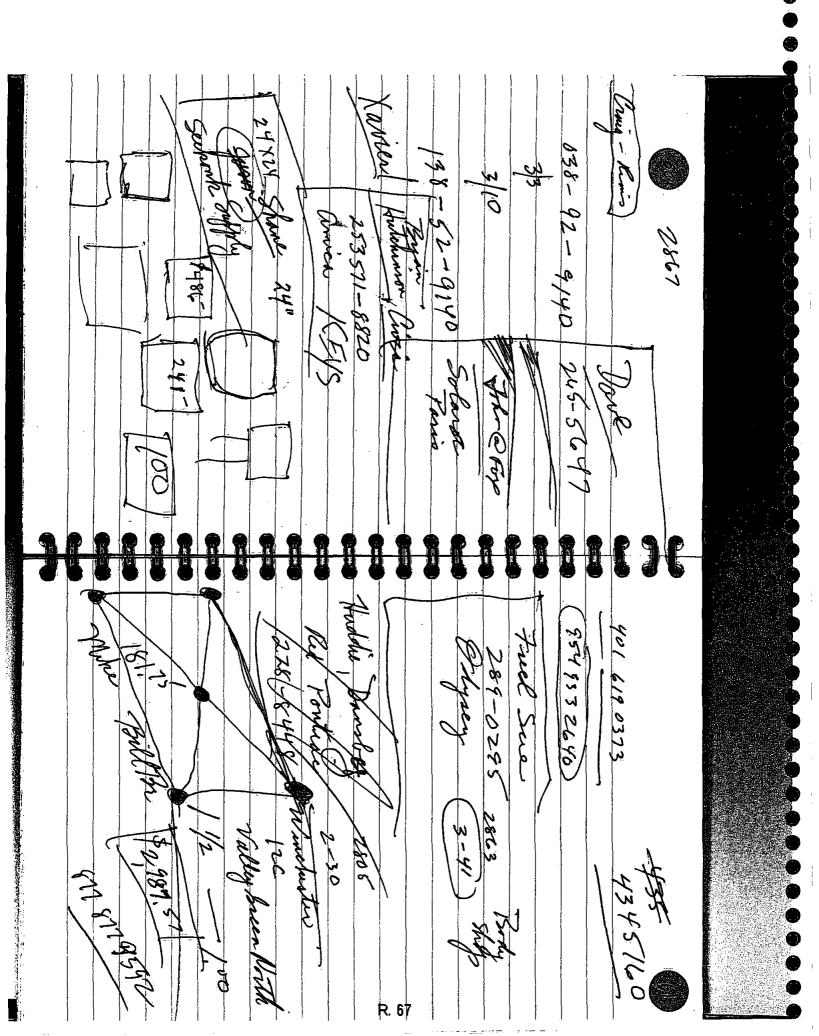
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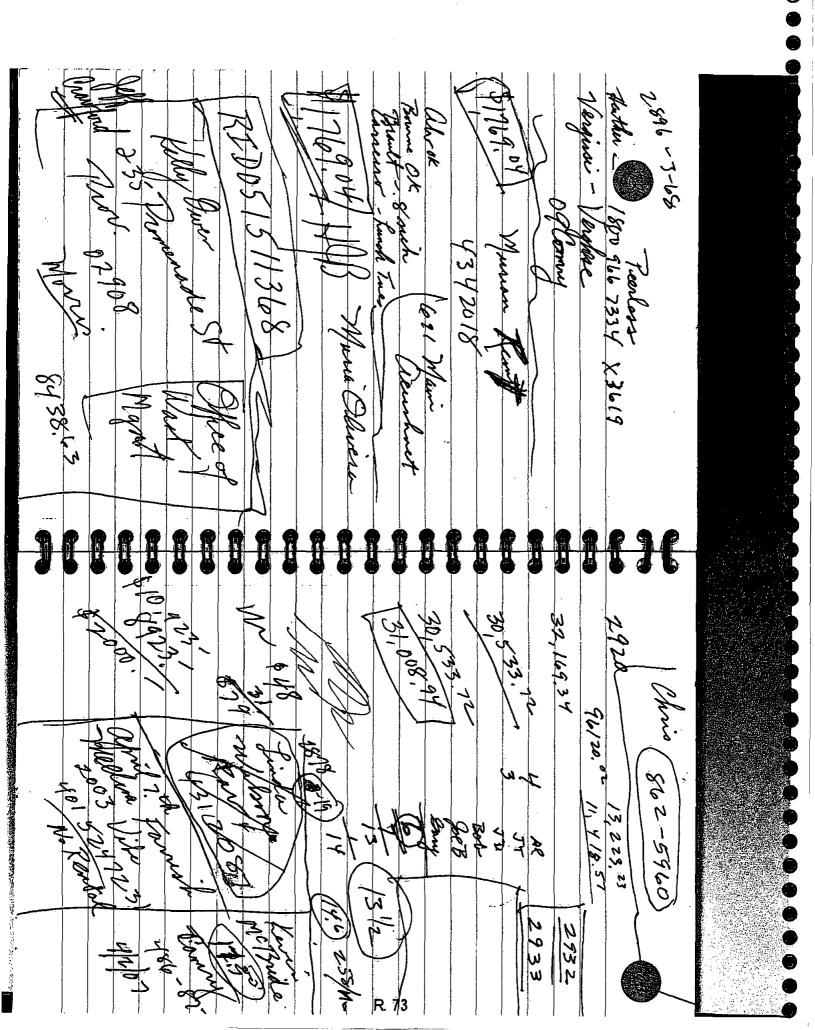
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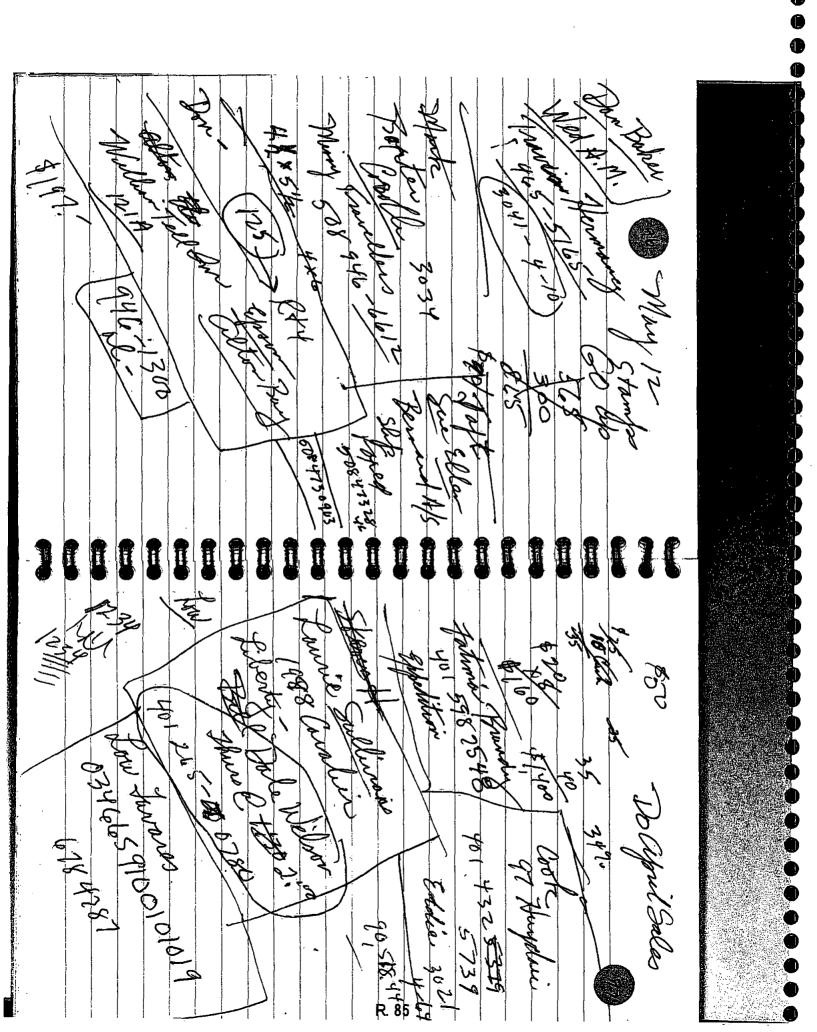
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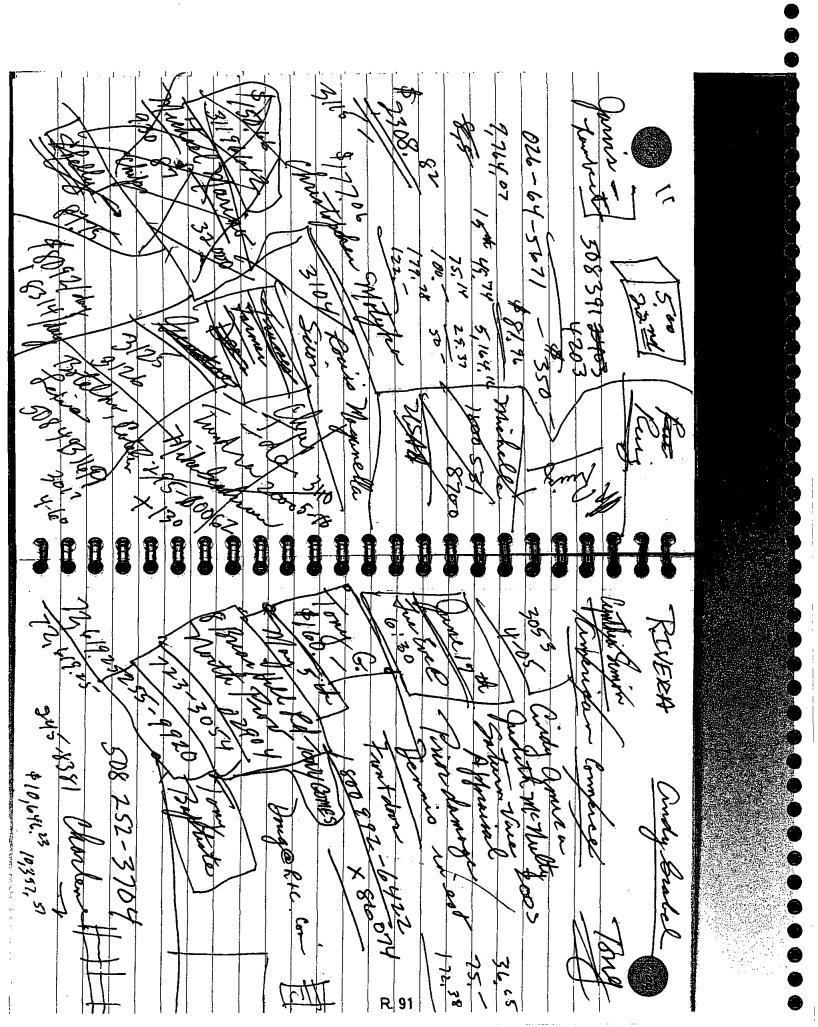
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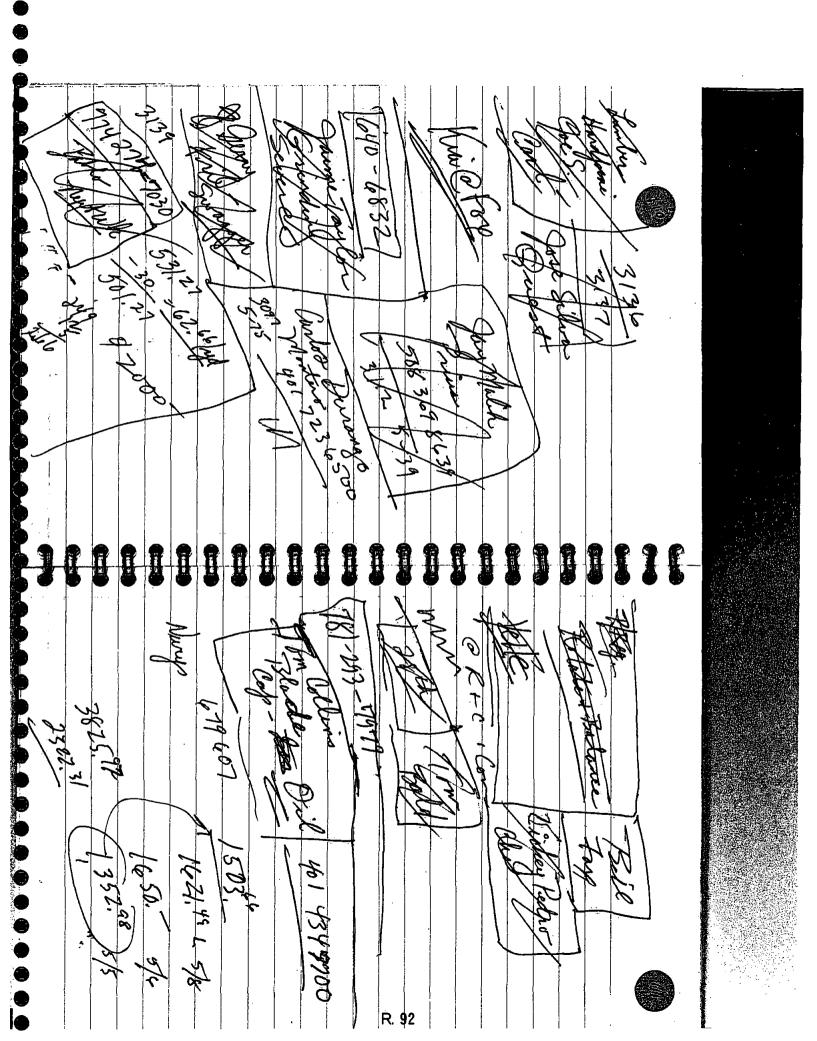
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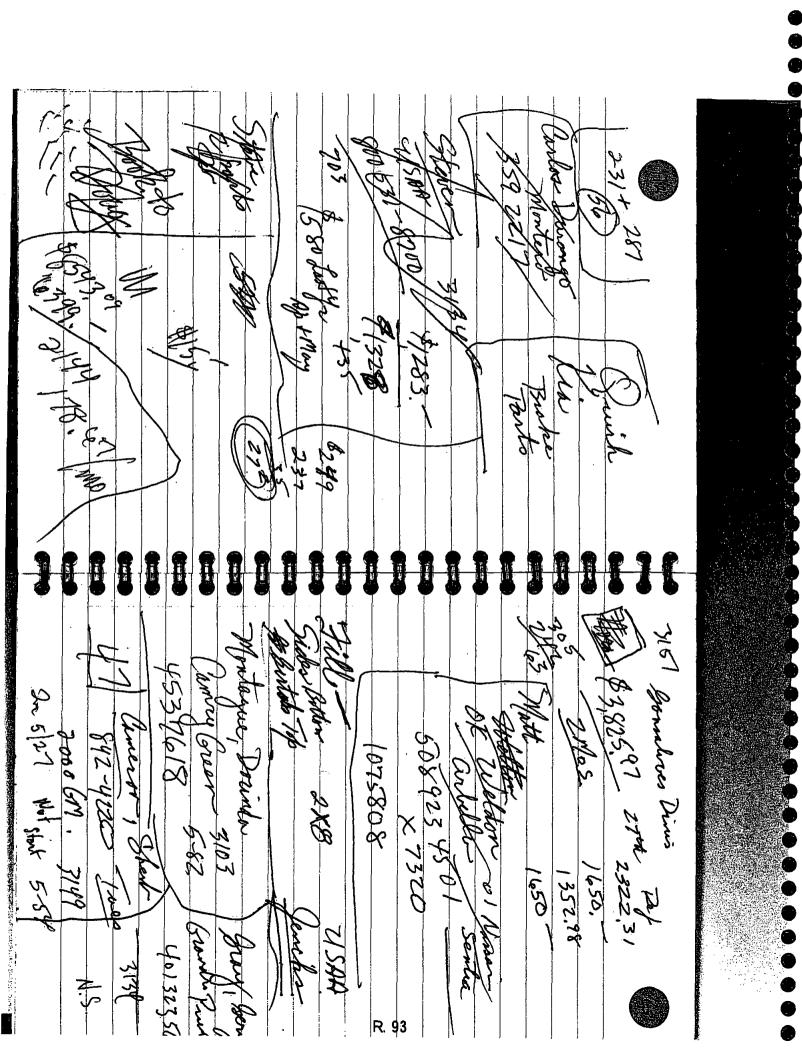
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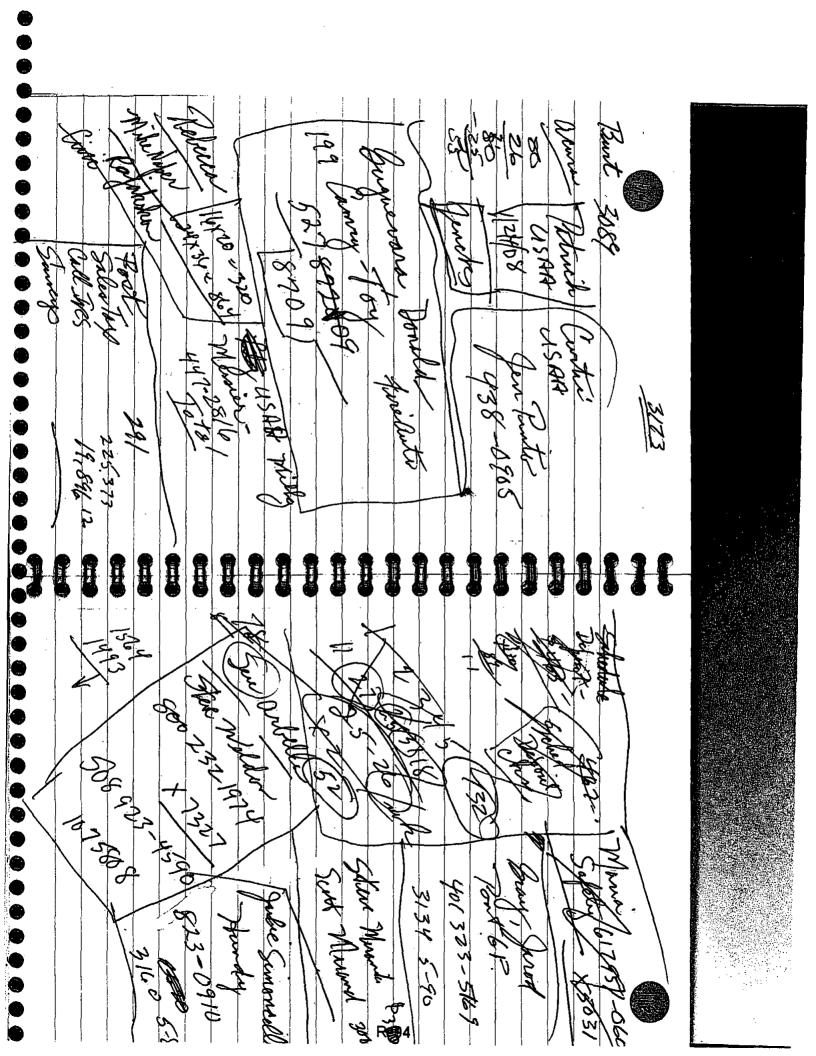
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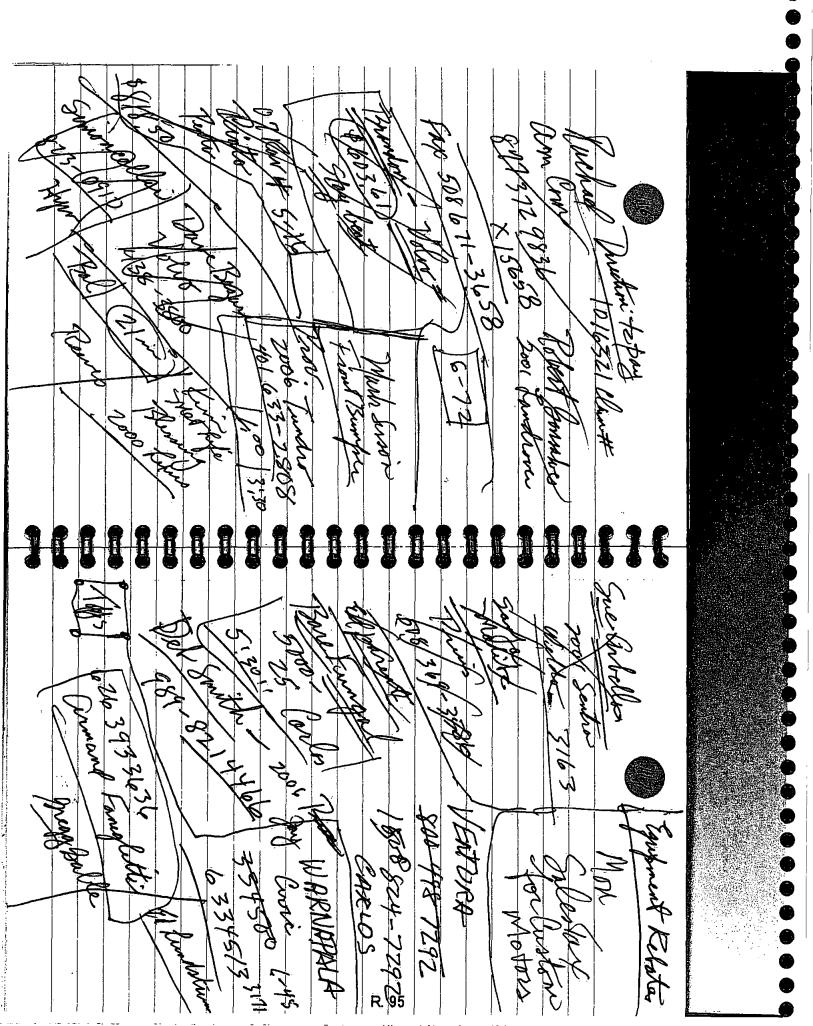
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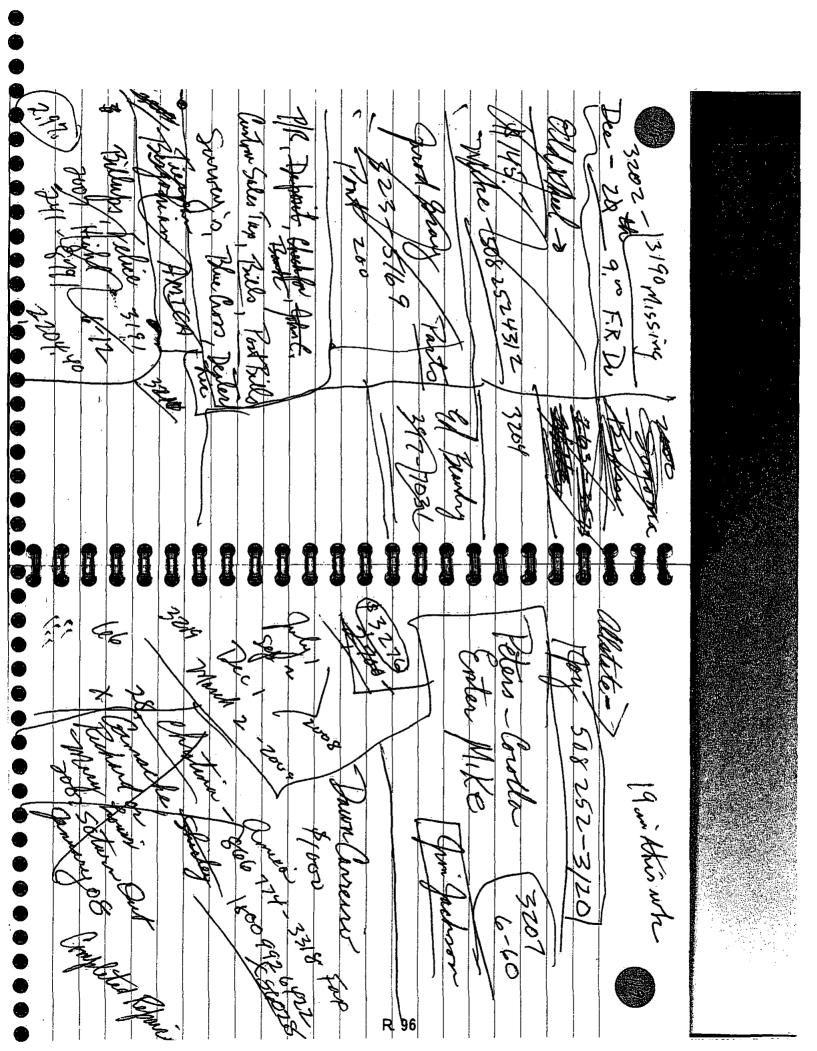












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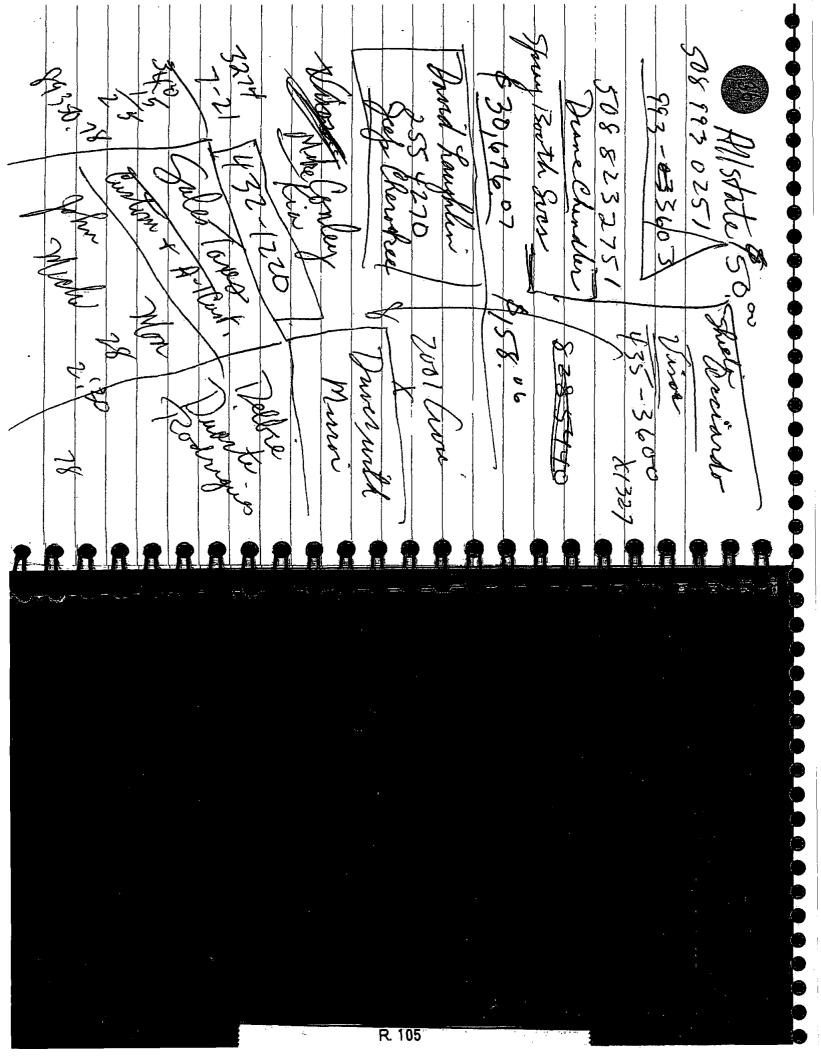
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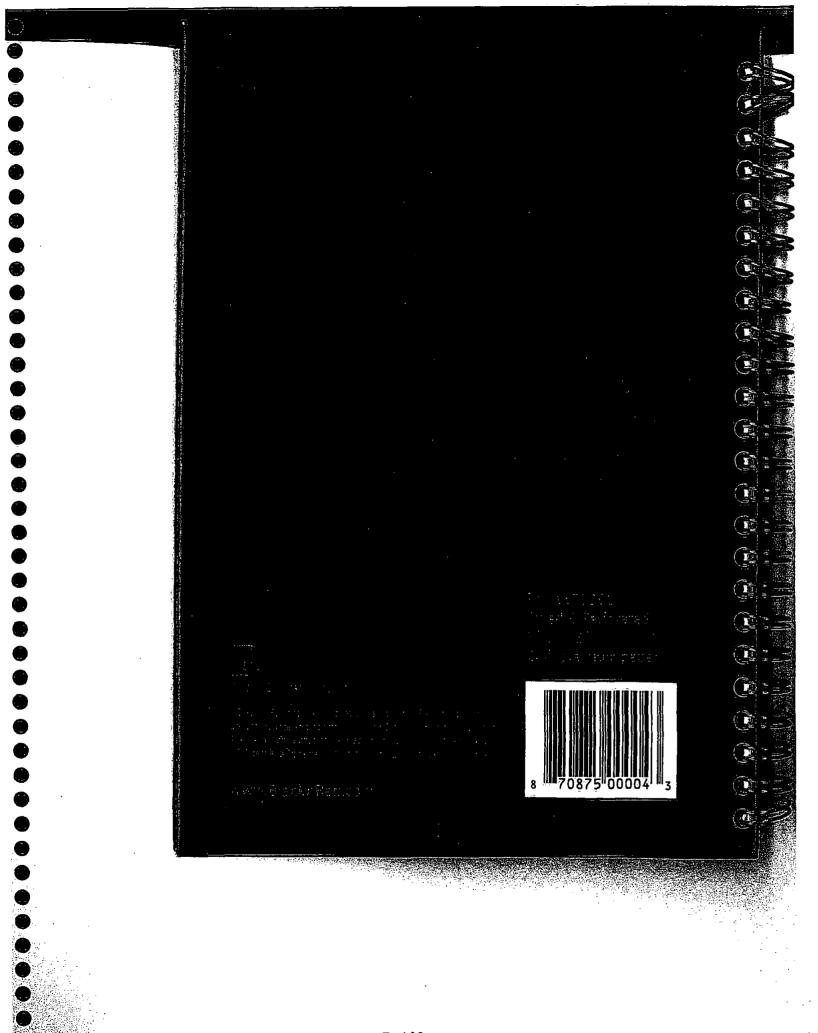
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HONORABLE TUDGE PHILLIPS

North Dartmouth, MA 02747 400 Faunce Corner Road

Bristol County Sheriff's Office

Your Full Name: HARVIEY BIGEICHE ID# 175536

Unit. 8 Room #2E 244 La unidad y Numero del Cuatro

Dear Mr. Michael and Mrs Fusar Costello and the Weholoth Community. Furt and foremost this my intention to hereby profounded and sincerely apological and beg forequeners Hormy huppropriate before of Alternotes of you both il court, & witnessed Grit hand all of the distress, enotions, feeling, emotional, Avarma, discoulort and June St & have Caused, Jamso, ov sorry of Rope you Can begin to believe Attafis was not my wheat to do on I did not recognize the harm of caused again, Itabe full responsibility for one actions and to make on Though I have only not Michael on several occassions Susan never, respectfully reach out to both De Dam profoundly and sincerely sorry Waspertfully & Junearly Havey Jo Byelow

DUNDUG THE PAST TWO WEEKS (15 DAYS) I HAVE PACE THE ULTIMATE PRICE AND HAVE BEEN PUNDSHED FOR MYCRIMES, AT ALMOST TO YEARS OLD I HAVE BEEN LOCKED INACELL 23 HRS PER DAY, WITHOUT MY MEDICATIONS FOODUNEST TO BAT LITTLE SLEEP A VERY HARD BED AND AN ENVIRONMENT WITH 1500 VIOLENT CRIMINALS. MY EXPECTATION OF THEIR THEIR ONE WEEK, SOON TUNNED TO THE AND TAM UNCERTAIN OF MY FUTURE, MYO'VERYOMA SON WAS A STAR WITNESS AGAINST ME AND TESTFIED AT TRUCK WE ARE IN THE MIDST OF A LAW SUTT FOR OTHER BUSINESS ISSUES INVOLVING MONEY THAT I HAVE LOANED HIM SO AS YOU CAN SEE "I SETT" FOR THE PAST, WIS I HAVE HED THE UNDISTRACTED INTENDED STANG, SCARY, UNCERTAIN, PUNISHING AND HUMILI ATING EXPERIENCE OF MY CIFE ALONG-TIME TO REFLECT AND PONDER OVER AND OVER THE REASONS FOR BEING THERE AT THIS POINT IN MY LIFE, I CAN ASSINGE ALL THAT I WILL NEVER AGAIN VENTURE TWO OR PARTICIPATE INTO THE MEAN AND NASTY "BLOOD SPORT" OF REHOBSTH POLITIES, EVERY ONE DESERVES A PEACEFUL LIFE, I WISH THAT THE PRESENT AND YOUNGER GENERATION CAN PIND AWAY TO TARTICULARE IN POLITICS IN A MUCH MORE TATIBLE ETUAL, LESS VILLITITALE AND SELF SERVING WAY WENEED MORE GOOD PEOPLE TO STERUP FINALLY, THOUGH I HAVE ONLY MET MICHAEL ON SELFAGE OCCUPATIONS, SUSAN NEWER I RESPECTIFULLY REACH OUT TO FOTH OF YOU WITH A STEN OF PEACE AS I HAVE HEARD MR COSTELLO SAY AS SELECTMAN MANY TIMES "WE NEED TO PUTOUR PAST DIFFERENCES BEHOLD US AND MOVE ON I SINCERELY AND RESPECTABLLY ASPEC AGAIN IAM TOROFOUNDLY AND STAKED SORRY BEE FOREGINENESS AND APOLOGIZE RESPECTALLY AND STAKEPEL Harvey | Bigelow

## **CERTIFICATION**

As counsel for the appellant, Harvey J. Bigelow, I certify that this brief complies with the rules of the court pertaining to the filing of briefs, including Mass. R. A. P. 16(a)(6) (pertinent findings or memorandum of decision); Mass. R. A. P. 16(e) (references to the record); Mass. R. A. P. 16(f) (reproduction of statutes, rules, regulations); Mass. R. A. P. 16(h) (length of briefs); Mass. R. A. P. 18 (appendix to the briefs); and Mass. R. A. P. 20 (form of briefs, appendices, and other papers).

Diana Cowhey McDermot

Attorney at Law

P.O. Box 574

Falmouth, MA 02541

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dianaesq@comcast.net

Dated: 12 18 14